
A Card a Day with Hero Arts with Libby from Hero Arts

Chapter 1 - A Card a Day with Hero Arts

Overview

(playful music) - Hi I'm Libby. I've been an artist and educator with Hero Arts for over 10 years. I love making cards, playing with my supplies, and sharing the love of card making with others. In this daily practice, we'll make a project a day, and I'll share some of my favorite tips and techniques. We'll cover how to make a card base, work with a variety of inks, use clear, wood block, and rubber stamps, add fun embellishments with sequins, die cuts, and glitter. We'll troubleshoot some common hangups involved with heat embossing and stamping a clean image, and build your skills so you can make any card with confidence. This is a no pressure way to integrate card making into your daily life.

Materials

- For the daily card making practice, I'll be using some basic supplies throughout the month. We'll mostly be working with clear stamps, so we have our acrylic blocks for mounting them. We have spray and a scrubber pad for cleaning up the stamps when we're done. There's a scoring tool, which we'll use at different times throughout the class. This is my paper trimmer. I use this every time I sit down to make a card to cut the card stock to the size I need. This is a die cutting machine. Hero Arts dies work with any brand of die cutting machine. This is the one I'll be using in class. You'll also need a heat tool, scissors, wire trimmers for cutting apart your dies. I'll show you how to do that. Any kind of pokey tool to get apart your dies from the paper. I also use washi tape when I'm die cutting to hold the dies in place. This is a stack of folded cards. Most of my cards in this are going to be A2 size, 4 1/4 by 5 1/2. These are some ready-made cards. Adhesive, I love liquid glue, but we can use any kind of adhesive during this. A pencil, a paintbrush, some glitter. I love glitter. I'll use it a lot. A spray bottle for spritzing, a craft mat, we'll use this as a surface for techniques. This is a palette we'll use, a basic black ink, and some tools for blending our inks. For each additional day, I'll be introducing new materials along the way.

Day 1 - Christmas card - basic stamping

- Hi, and welcome to day one. We're gonna dive right into stamping today. I'm gonna show you all the basics of stamping, how to get a nice, crisp, clean image when you're stamping. And we're gonna start out with some holiday projects because everybody loves the holidays. It's a classic time for giving gifts and cards. Today we're working the the Build a Tree set. I love this set because it has all the different elements to build a tree, or you could even use it to build a wreath. Lots of great ideas for making your holiday cards with this one. I already have it out of the package, so I'm gonna use this set here, I'm gonna set this one aside. So when I'm using these clear stamps, I like to take the backing sheet off and then I use my acrylic blocks. There's all different kinds of different sizes of acrylic blocks. I like to pick one that's close to the size of the stamp that I'm using. So I'm gonna start with my stem, so I'm gonna go ahead and pull off the little stem piece right here and put it on my clear block. I'm gonna be using a 4 1/4 by 5 1/2 piece of card stock. I like to stamp right on a piece of card stock rather than my card base, just because if I mess up I have an opportunity to turn it over and try again. For my stem I'm gonna use the caramel ink. So I'm gonna go ahead and use this nice brown for the stem. And when I'm inking it up, I like to tap several times. I kinda look at my

block and make sure I'm getting good coverage on it. I am, so I'm gonna go ahead and put it on my card. I'm gonna be building my tree kind of off to the right a little bit. So there's my stem. Next I'm gonna pull in some green apple ink. And for the green apple I'm gonna be starting to use the little branches for my tree. So again, I wanna pick a clear block that's close to the size of the die or the stamp that I'm using. I'm gonna go ahead and ink that up as well. I can see on there that I didn't get good coverage on all those leaves, so it's good to take a look as you're doing it and make sure you're getting it all covered. And then I'm gonna just press it down. When I press down with my stamp, I like to go straight down. I don't rock, just firm pressure all the way around. And there's my first leaf. When I'm stamping I like to use a scrubber pad to clean my stamps. You could also use baby wipes. There's lotsa way to clean them. So I'll spritz up this pad, this little scrubber pad with my spray. I'll only do it on one side, and that'll be my first side that I clean with. And then the other side that hasn't been spritzed is kind of a drying side to do a final clean. So once my stamp is clean I put it right back onto my carrier sheet. If you ever find your stamps are getting to where they're not sticking anymore, you can run them under some cold water and that will help clean them as well. All right, I'm gonna keep going along, stamping all my branches on my tree, the same method. I'm just gonna go ahead and ink it up, make sure I have good coverage on there, figure out where I wanna space it on here, and then just press it straight down. I'll clean again. Sometimes I just do a final little tap off on my scratch paper I'm working on just to make sure it's nice and clean before I put it back. And who am I kidding? When I'm working at home, I don't always clean. Sometimes I have a whole pile of different dirty stamps sitting on my desk, and then I do one big cleaning at the end. So I'm gonna go ahead and stamp the next branch. All right. And I'm gonna repeat that same stamping on the other side of my tree. Okay, gonna go ahead and clean that stamp, put it back. Now for my little star at the top of the tree. I'm gonna use my dandelion ink and this little star stamp. Using a little bit bigger of acrylic block than I would normally, so when I stamp this I wanna make sure that there's nothing on the edges. Because if that accidentally touched the paper it would leave a line, and you're not gonna love that on your project. So there's my little star at the top. Now, I wanna have that colored in, I think. So I'm gonna take a yellow marker. Doesn't matter what kinda marker, but just any kind of yellow. I'm just gonna color right inside that outlined star. Okay. Next I'll add the message to my card. I'm gonna go ahead and use, there's lots of options in this set. You could do Happy Christmas, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas. I'm gonna go ahead and use Merry Christmas for this one, and then I'm gonna use the little message below it that says, "From our family to yours." So I'll begin by stamping the Merry. I'm gonna use this block over here. And this time I'm gonna use the black ink. This is the moment of truth. You wanna be very careful when you're adding your message at the end, because you've done all that stamping and it would be sad to have it go wrong now. Perfect, okay. And now Christmas. Again I can use this same block again. Make sure I'm getting even coverage of that ink on the stamp. I'm gonna come down with the word Christmas. Looks good. So I stamp these separately, but you'll notice that the whole message would've fit on this block. That's another way you could do it. You could certainly put them together and stamp them all at once to make it a little easier. I'm gonna take the from our family to yours. When I'm putting a long message like this onto a block, I like to set it on my table first and then just pick it up with the block. Sometimes if you try to put it right onto the block it could end up crooked. And that usually keeps it nice and straight for you. Great. Now to finish my card. This is a nice, simple stamping, and look how pretty it looks when it all comes together. I'm gonna take a card base and go ahead and attach this to the base. I'm using some premade cards that are already folded in half for me, but if you wanted to make a card and you had 8 1/2 by 11 card stock it's really simple to do. I'm gonna go

ahead and grab my paper trimmer and my piece of card stock, and what you would do is you would just go, so this is 11 inches this way, so you're gonna go to 5 1/2 inches, which is right here, and cut it. And then you end up with a piece of card stock that's 8 1/2 by 5 1/2, and you wanna make a score line on the center of the 8 1/2 line, so I'm gonna grab a score tool. And half of 8 1/2 is 4 1/4, so we're gonna go ahead and score our paper at 4 1/4, which is right here. Just put pressure right down with your score tool. And that makes it very easy to just fold your card in half and have a perfectly made A2 size card. Since I made that I'll go ahead and use it for this card. So I'm gonna use my liquid glue. You could use any kind of adhesive that you prefer. I just put it all over on the back. I like to use liquid glue just because if you put it down in the wrong spot, it has a lot of give to it, so you can wiggle it around a little and get it just perfect. Some of the tapes are just, once you put them down they're set, and they're really hard to correct mistakes. I tend to make mistakes and I admit that, and I'm happy to be able to correct them. All right, so to finish this card I just put a tiny, little strip, which is a 1/4 inch wide and 5 1/2 inches across, right there to ground my tree. So I'll add some adhesive to that as well. And this, you just want it to be a thin layer. If the adhesive oozes out just a little bit, this precision glue that I'm using dries clear and matte, so you will not really see the glue. There we go, our first card for this class.

Day 2 - Winter wreath - stamps and die cuts

- Hi, welcome back. Today, we're gonna continue on with our holiday cards we were making yesterday using the same Build-a-Tree stamp set. And today, we're gonna use those same components of the set to build a wreath. So with this Build-a-Tree set that we used yesterday, if you look at all the leaves and pine needles in here, you can see they have a natural bend to them and I thought that looks like it could all curve together and make a wreath. I'm gonna pick some certain elements from this set, but, really, any of them would work. I'm just gonna pick kind of randomly what I'm gonna use to build my wreath. So let's get started with our inking. I'm gonna start with some of the pine needles and I'm gonna use my Antigua Ink for this. Just like yesterday, I'm gonna ink it up, make sure I'm getting good coverage on there and just press it straight down on my paper. I'm gonna do several of these, all in a row. Okay, I'm gonna move onto the next pine needle. Again, I'm gonna use that same color of ink. I think I'll use a few of the cute little leaves in the set as well. I'm gonna go ahead and move onto another ink. I think I'll start with my Mint Julep and, again, just tap, tap, tap. So I'm clearly not building this into the form of a wreath yet, but what we're gonna do is we're gonna learn about die cutting today. So I'm going to stamp all these out, get them ready, and then I'm gonna show you how to die cut them for our final project. All right, I'm gonna move onto the next leaf. And this one, I think I'll use the Tide Pool Ink. I just pick some colors of ink because I like the colors. I love this cool mint julepy kind of look. There's nothing especially in particular about this kind of ink that made it necessary for this project. Okay. Then I'm also gonna just tuck in some snowflakes, I think. I think that would be a cute little addition to our wreath. So I'm gonna take my snowflakes stamp, put it on a block, and I'm gonna stamp that one with the Deep Ocean, which is a blue, and I actually think I'm gonna need another piece of paper for that. I've filled up this one already. And I'm using card stock for this, a nice, heavyweight card stock. I like to use card stock on my cards rather than just regular printer paper. It's heavy duty and it holds up well, makes a nice finished product. Okay, so another little thing I wanna do before I start my die cutting is I'm gonna add some color to these leaves. I have some markers here in colors that roughly match the inks that I'm using. I'm just gonna fill those in. Okay, now that my coloring is done, I'm gonna show you how to die cut. This is the exciting part of today. I'm gonna pull in my big old die-cutting machine here.

Any kind of die-cutting machine will work with these dies. This is just the one I happen to be using. Any kind of manual where it's cutting from a metal die, not an electronic file. And we're gonna be using dies that match this clear set. So for a lot of these stamp sets, they have an actual die set that will cut out all of the individual little images in here. So you can see in the set, there's one for every little leaf and snowflake in this set. So I'm gonna show you how to use this. So it comes like this all attached together and you'd be like what? How do I do this? So I'm gonna take it out of the package, pull it off, it's on there with just a little bit of adhesive, and then I'm gonna take my wire cutters. And you can see there's a little piece of metal in between each die and I'm gonna go ahead and snip those apart, just like that, easy peasy. I'm gonna figure out which ones I need for this project. I'm sure I need this great, big pine bough one. So you can see there's still a little knob right there. I actually like to cut those off really close to the die and separate all of them. I already have some separated, so I'll go ahead and pull those in. And from my die set, I'm gonna go ahead and find the dies that match what I'm cutting out. So I can see that's the one for the pine needle. That one also matches one of the pine needles. And you can see I'm gonna have to go through my machine several times in order to get these all separated. So when you look at your dies, you can see one side has a ridge to it and one side is completely flat. When I'm lining up onto my stamped image, I always put the ridge side down because that is our cutting surface, so you want that touching your paper so it's gonna cut all the way through. To keep my dies well-aligned as they're running through the die-cutting machine, I love to use washi tape. Obviously, any design of washi tape will be fine for this. We're just using it on our dies. And to get rid of the sticky, 'cause I don't want that tape to pull up my paper at all, I like to put it on the back of my hand and that just takes a little bit of the sticky away from it, then I make sure it's good and aligned around my die and hold it in place with the washi. I'm gonna do that for all my dies. I'll be able to send all these through at once and then keep going to get them all die cut. Now that my stamps are all set with their dies, matching dies, I'm gonna go ahead and take the platform out. So I mentioned you can use any die-cutting machine when you're die cutting. You just wanna make sure you know the sandwich that's called for your machine, the order that all the plates go. On this particular machine, it has a big platform and then it has two cutting plates. So I'm gonna put these all in together. Since I'm not cutting that end of the paper, it doesn't matter if it hangs out the back of my die-cutting machine, but anything that you want to have cut, you need to make sure it's on the platform in between the two plates. So I'm gonna go ahead and put that in and just run it through by turning the handle. I like to put one hand on top of it while it goes to keep it in place and then crank it with the other one. Now that washi tape, I reuse. I go ahead and just put it right up on top of my machine as I'm figuring this all out. And here is my snowflake. The great thing about die cutting with a machine like this with metal dies is it makes a nice, little finished edge on your die cut. So it kind of turns downward a little bit and that makes a nice edge and a clean look on your project. Continue your die cutting to get all your stamp pieces cut out. You're gonna wanna end up with about 15 components to use to build your wreath in the end. Once you have all your pieces die cut, you're gonna go ahead and start composing your wreath. I'm gonna take a circle die. This is just another one of my dies from my collection and it's just something round. So anything you have that's a circle that you can use to trace is perfectly fine for what we're doing here. I'm just gonna take a pencil and draw lightly my wreath shape, which is a circle, just to have a little guide as I'm putting down my pieces. Now using my liquid glue, I'm gonna just start building my wreath. I'm gonna take these pieces and start kinda figuring out where I want them. I'm gonna put my runaway lid over to the side. All right, let's see. I think I'll start with the big pine needle boughs and I'll put them kind of in, there's three of them, so I'm gonna kind of put them

in three different areas of my circle. I'll go ahead and just put those down, my liquid glue. I'm working on a piece of card stock, a nice, blue color that I mounted onto a top folding piece of craft card stock. We call that color sand at Hero Arts. I'm just gonna keep gluing these down. You can see I'm kind of putting the tip of the stamp image onto the line of my circle just to keep the flow of the circle going. All right, next we'll do the pine needles, the smaller pine needles, now that we finish our larger ones. Again, just, it's not super particular where you have to put each thing. Just put them into a nice shape to make a circle. All right, and I'll go with my bigger leaves and kind of hold them in the direction that makes sense for the flow of the piece. I like to say there's no rules in crafting. You just keep going. Okay, and then I'll finish with these last little leaves, which are in the lighter color of ink, just wherever I feel like there needs to be something to fill in, like up here, there's still a little area that needed something. And I'll put this last one right down here, in the bottom right. Now, I still have those snowflakes that we cut out. I'm gonna use something a little different to put those down. Instead of my liquid glue, just push those down one more time, I'm gonna use some foam tape. So any kind of dimensional tape that you have, I'm using this great, big roll, and I'm gonna take my scissors and cut off three little pieces to put behind the snowflakes. That went flying. So this is double-stick, so I'm gonna just stick it right down on the center of my snowflake, peel off the little backer piece, and then just stick that right down. I think I'll put one there. Get another one. I'll put this one maybe right here. Then my little piece that went flying, I need to make that just a little bit smaller to fit on the back of that snowflake. And then this one, I'm gonna put over more towards the left of the piece, if I can get that backer off there. Sometimes, they're a little tricky to get off. There we go. Let's see, I'll put this one right here. I'm also kinda hiding some of the stems as I put those down. Now, that looks great as is, but I think I want a little bling on this as well, so I'm gonna pull off my sequins. This is one of my sequin mixes. It has some cute, little stars in there and also some clear sequins. I'm just gonna lay some out into this card. The reason I'm using a card is when I'm done, I can easily pour it right back into my little baggy here. Now, if you had a little jewel picker, it'd make picking up these sequins even easier, but I'm just gonna use my fingers. And the way I do it is I put a dot of glue right down on my piece that I'm gluing the sequin to and then I pick up my sequin and stick it down right where I put my dot. This adhesive dries, as I've said, completely clear, so you don't have to worry. Right now, you're gonna see the glue, but it's not gonna show once this is completely dry. There's actually a white, more of an opaque sequin in here and also a clear. I'm just grabbing out the clear ones just because that's what I like for this one. Another one down. Maybe just one or two more. Put one right up there. Okay, I think that's good. I'm gonna set my glue aside just for a second and pick my sequins back up. I'll show you that little trick of putting them in with the card. Okay. Now to finish off this card, I think every wreath needs a bow. So I'm gonna take my twine, and the way I like to add a bow to my cards is I'll tie my bow first and then I'll use my glue to stick it right on there. Sometimes, I wrap the whole twine around the card. That's another way you can do it. But, in this case, I'm just gonna tie a bow with my fingers. I'm tying the two loops together, trying to push it through. Okay, I'm gonna tighten up my bow a little bit. Here's a super cute, little twine bow. I'm gonna shorten the ends. And then, again, I'm gonna take my liquid glue and I'm gonna put my bow right beneath the wreath, right there with the dot. This is really strong glue when it dries, so it's gonna hold that completely in place and it's gonna dry clear. So I'm just gonna hold that there for a second until it is set. Okay, and I'll set that aside to dry while I make a message to go on there. I think I wanted to say From Me, To You. So back to my stamp set that we used to get all the leaves done, I'm gonna go ahead and grab one of the messages. This one says From Me, To You. And for this one, I'm gonna use my black ink again. And I've already cut some

little quarter-inch wide strips of the craft color card stock which also matches the back of the card, the card base, so it'll all tie together. I'm gonna go ahead and ink that up. We've had a lot of practice with our stamping so far. I'm gonna put that down. I think I want it off to the side slightly. Put it right there. Okay. And then, again, with my handy-dandy liquid glue that I love to use on everything, I'm gonna go ahead and put some glue on the back of that. Make sure you get the edges so it'll stay down well. And I'm gonna stick that right to the card front, under my little wreath bow. Make sure it's straight, which is always a challenge for me. (chuckles) And there we go, a wreath made with stamping and die cutting.

Day 3 - Poppy card - woodblock stamp

- For today's card we're gonna use a wood block stamp. Up until now, we've been using the clear stamps, which I love. They're so versatile. There are so many stamps that come on one package and they are easy to store, they don't take up much room, and best of all, they're made in the USA. For my card today, I'm gonna be using a wood block stamp. Wood block stamps are wonderful. They are deeply-etched red rubber, which stamps like a dream. They're hand-cut wood blocks that are made right here in California. And these are just the heart and soul of the company and we love our wood block stamps. So for today's card, I'm also gonna change it up a little bit and show you how to use these kind of stamps with markers rather than ink pads. So I'm gonna use my water-based Tombow markers. I'm gonna start with a lighter shade. I'm gonna use reds and greens today to keep with my holiday theme for this class. And I'm gonna go ahead and color right on the stamp itself with my marker. Just covering the whole thing with my lighter shade of the red. And now I'm gonna go in with a darker shade and just kind of go around the edges. This is gonna add a little bit of a shadowing to it, a little contrast. I'm gonna add a little green to the stem. That's one great thing about using markers like this. You can vary your colors right on the stamp without having to worry about selective inking with your ink pad. Now to make sure it's good and moist, this is a interesting technique you may not have heard, but I'm gonna huff right onto my stamp. (huffing) That just adds a tiny bit of moisture to keep the ink flowing on that. I'm gonna press it straight down just like we've been doing. And you can see that makes a really beautiful water colored look to it. But I like to take it a step farther with my water brush, or you could use a paintbrush and some water, and I'm just gonna blend this a little, tiny bit around the edges. Because these are water-based markers, they blend nicely with water. That just makes it a little more vibrant. Either look is fine, but I just like this look with mine. I'm gonna go ahead and do the same process two more times to add more poppies to my card. So I'm gonna color it with the marker, add a little red to the edges again, add my green to the stem, and again I'm gonna huff on it, (huffing) and go ahead and stamp that down. Now if you wanted to have a even more water-colored, really more of an abstract look to it, you could spritz your stamp with a water bottle. That would make it really moist and make the ink really flow. All right, I'm gonna add one more poppy to my card. And again, you can be doing this with an ink pad. The way I would do an ink pad if I wanted to kind of have a two-color look to it is I would ink up the flower with a lighter ink pad of red and then just rock the edges of it into the ink, into a darker ink. Okay, one more time huffing on it. (huffing) One more poppy over to the side here. And then I'm gonna go ahead and do my little bit of water brushing on here. Now to add another little element to my card, I'm gonna do some flicking of the ink color right onto my card. And to do this, I'm using a craft mat and I'm just gonna color a little bit of my marker right onto that and then wet it with my water brush until it's good and wet. Maybe add a little bit more water in there. And then, maybe just go ahead and put this right up on here, I'm gonna flick it on. I do that by tapping my

brush and that makes these little water droplets form on there. And I think I'd like to have a little bit of black, as well. So I'm gonna take my black marker, same idea, just put some here on the craft mat, wet it with my brush, and then just flick these on here. All right, once your card's dry, you can add your message. I'm using the same Merry Christmas message from the build-a-tree set we've been using the last couple days in class. I'm gonna go ahead and add this right up here in the top portion of my card. Press down firmly. And then to finish this card, I'm just gonna add it to a card base that I've added a little strip of black to to give it a little contrast. And I'm gonna go ahead and use my liquid glue to put that down. So my card is just a tiny bit smaller than A2. I thought this would be cute on a slightly smaller card, so it's cut down to 5-1/4 by 4-1/4. And there we go, I turned my wood block poppies into a Christmas card. Of course, this poppy is something you can use year round for all kinds of occasions. I have some other samples to show you. Here I've made it with a nice light purple and a blue around the edge for a wishing you well card, and again the same idea with an orange and a red.

Day 4 - Poinsettia gift wrap

- For the last couple days, we've been talking about making cards with stamps. This time, I'm gonna change it up just a little bit and show you something else you can do with your stamps. We're gonna make some holiday wrapping paper. But first, I'm gonna tell you a little bit about inks and different kinds of inks that you can use in your projects. There's several types of inks, and you choose what you're gonna use depending on your project. Dye inks are an ink that soaks down into your paper a little bit more. So, they don't sit on the surface, they soak right in, and they dry quickly. Our bold inks at Hero Arts are a hybrid ink, which means they have a little bit of that fast-drying dye ink property, but they also have a bit of pigment, which makes 'em bold, nice colors. A pigment ink sits on the surface of your project, and it takes a lot longer to dry. We'll also be using a white pigment ink. I chose that because it really stands out well on this craft paper. The white ink sits on top of the surface, and it dries a little bit slower, but it's worth the wait. I'm gonna start with my poinsettia stamp. Now, when you're gonna do something like wrapping paper, where you're gonna have a repeating pattern, you're gonna wanna kinda think about it a little bit first to make sure it's gonna come together the way you're picturing. So, I think I'm gonna start by stamping my poinsettia all over this paper. And this is just some craft paper that's in a roll. You could also make wrapping paper from butcher paper. Anything that you could use to wrap a present, really, that has a surface that can be stamped on. I think I'm gonna go ahead and do all my poinsettias in a row. And when I'm making something like this, I'm okay if the stamping is not 100% perfect, which, ironically, that's what I just did. Because I want it to look homemade. I'm okay with it being very obvious that I made this with love for the person who's receiving it. I think for the next run, I'm just gonna offset it a little bit. And I am pressing down firmly, I'm kind of taking the block in both my hands just to make sure that I'm getting even pressure across the whole stamp. I'll do one more row, and then I'll just show you where I go from there. Okay, I'll finish the rest of those in a bit, but I wanna show you what I do now with the leaf. I think I'll use this smaller leaf. It's sized a little bit better with the poinsettia. And I'm gonna look at my stamp again to make sure I'm getting good coverage on there. And I think I'm gonna have it coming from the same place on every flower. Okay, and now for that pigment ink. I'm really excited to show you how this looks. It's gonna pop on this craft paper. So, when you stamp this, when you ink it up, you can see when you look at the backside, it looks different than the dye ink. It's almost a thicker, gooyer looking ink. And I'm gonna stamp that in between the flowers. And see how that just pops on the craft paper? Looks gorgeous. I'm gonna go ahead and add that

throughout my paper. This is a great ink to use on black cardstock, on any colored cardstock, 'cause it'll really show up nicely. Now, it does take a little bit more drying time because it's a pigment, so after I make my wrapping paper, I'm gonna set it aside for a little bit before I go and wrap my present. Continue stamping until you've filled up your sheet, and then clean up your stamps the way we have before, with either your scrubber pad or a baby wipe. And once I had that done, I wrapped up my present, and this is my final package. Looks so cute and homemade, and I just finished it off with a bit of gold ribbon.

Day 5 - Poinsettia layered gift tag

- All the things that you use for card making you can also use for other things related to gift giving. I love to make tags, and that's what I wanna do today. I've already cut some tags using my Infinity Dies. I cut them in both white and sand color. So I'm gonna show you how to layer these tags together. I'm gonna use my paper trimmer for this. And I wanna cut off part of this white tag at an angle. You can see the track on my paper trimmer, where it cuts. I'm gonna just line up the corner of it right along that track. And cut it off at a diagonal. Then I'm gonna scoot down just a little bit farther to the other corner, trying to keep the same spacing on my little strip here. And that gives me a piece shaped like this. Then I'm gonna attach that right to my craft tag. So with my liquid glue, gonna add adhesive to the back. You can use any kind of adhesive for this. And I'm going to just stick that right down with the corners in the corners. So right here, this little corner lined up. And then the one at the bottom lined up. That just adds a little bit of a little extra something to your tag. To decorate my tag, I'm gonna use a poinsettia die. It's a Fancy Die. Fancy Dies are stand-alone dies that can be used on their own. They don't usually pair with a stamp set. Fancy Dies can be for any occasion. I happened to be using the poinsettia that's great for the holidays. But they're for all year 'round. Here's an adorable little camper that you could also use. To cut out my poinsettia, again, I'm gonna bring out my big old die-cutting machine. I'm gonna take out the green and cut out the little leaf from the set. And then I'm gonna put my die so that the ridge side, which has the cutting edge, goes flat down onto the paper. Some people prefer to have it going the other way where you have the die cut facing up and your paper on top of it. But I like to see where I'm putting my die. And there is our leaf. I'm gonna do the same process with the red paper. And the leaves, or the petals, I should say, of the poinsettia. I'm gonna cut all three of these at once. You can see I've already been making some poinsettias on this one. And I'm going to just put the top piece on and send it on through. I like to put my hand on the top so that it stays where I want it to be. When you're doing three like this, it's a little bit tougher to get through. That was crazy, okay. All right, so here are my three petals. And you can see that my petals are actually stuck in my die right now. That's why one of my tools that I always have on hand is something to poke out those little pieces. On the back to the die, there are holes that are there specifically so you can make sure to get your paper out of your die. Sometimes, the dies just stay separated. So this piece is separated from the die completely. And finally, the little flower center. Same process, I'm putting it face down on my paper. Putting the plate on top and sending it through. And again, that time, it stayed right here on my cutting plate. And now we can assemble our poinsettia. The great thing about these kind of dies, they have these partial cuts that make it so it can add dimension to your project. So I'm gonna kind of shape this a little bit by folding on those parts. And then I am actually going to use foam tape to put this together. Just here on my table. Just gonna cut of a little square for each piece. So I'm gonna cut a square, and then cut that piece into four. You can also buy foam adhesive that's already cut into little squares, which makes it even easier for you. All right, I'm going to go ahead and put

my foam right there in the center. It's gonna be hidden, so we don't need to worry about it showing at all. Peel off the backer. And then put the next piece right on top of it. Kind of putting it so... I'm not putting them so they're right on top of each other. I'm offsetting it a little bit. Pushing that down. Then putting another foam square in the center of my flower. I'm doing this just to give it a little bit more dimension. And again, I can shape these leaves a little bit, these petals. All right, for my center, I'm gonna do the same thing. I'm gonna take another little piece of foam. Put that right in the center. And now my tag base. Before I put my poinsettia on my tag, I'm gonna go ahead and stamp a Merry Christmas message right along the side. This is from the same woodblock stamp that I used last time. And I'm gonna use black ink this time. I'll put it right along this diagonal edge. Thought that'd be a fun place to put my message. There are also lots of stamps that say to and from. That would be a great thing to use on a tag. All right. I'm using a surface that it's okay it went off a little bit on the edge, but if you're on a table you wanna protect, make sure you're stamping on a piece of paper or something. And then I'm gonna put my poinsettia right on my tag. And I'm gonna tuck my little leaf in underneath, so I'm gonna glue that down first. I'm just gonna stick that right in there. And then I'm gonna put some adhesive on the back of my whole poinsettia. And set that right on top of my leaf. Hold it down in place for a second to set. And then I always like to add glitter to my project last, usually, because usually it has to dry a little bit. And so, I'm gonna go ahead and... You can see on this poinsettia how there's berries in the center. I'm gonna put a dot of glue every place where there'd be a little bit of a berry. And then I'm using a chunky glitter from Hero Arts called Snowfall glitter. It's a really pretty iridescent glitter. I just dump a bunch of it on. Sprinkle it over my card. And then I can collect that again and put it back in my bottle and reuse it. And then my tag, I'll just finish it with a little bit of gold ribbon. And this tag is ready to give to a family member or a friend. And it matches with the package we just made. I'll trim my edge a little bit. And there we go, lovely. This poinsettia is one of my favorite dies. I use it all the time. And I also like to use it with just regular, plain white paper and paint it. So here are some other variations of painted poinsettias in all different shades and colors of pink and red. All with my little bit of glitter in the center because I love my glitter.

Day 6 - Hand-colored pop-up card

- For this card, we're gonna combine a bunch of elements of stamping. One of my very favorite things to do is color, so I'm gonna talk all about coloring today. And then we're gonna pull it together in a card that uses clear stamps, and we're gonna make a pop-up card which is super duper fun. This stamp set is called Warm Animals. I love that the cute little animals are great for coloring. I'm gonna use three different coloring mediums today. Copic markers, Tombow markers, and colored pencils. The front of the card features this little scene that I stamped on a circle that I had already die cut. I used the messages and the stamps from this adorable Warm Animal set. I stamped the little houses and the tree, and the snowflakes. And I used an ink that I knew would work well with all the coloring mediums I'm gonna use today. The ink is called Hero Arts Intensified Black ink. It's both alcohol marker safe, and also waterproof. So I'm gonna start by coloring the tree with my Tombow marker. You might remember in a previous day I showed you that these markers can be moved with water because they are water-based. But today I'm just using it as a solid bold marker to color my cute little green tree. This is real simple coloring with just coloring in the little triangles with my marker. Now for the Copics, Copics can be a little scary, but they can be simple as well, and I love to use them because they blend beautifully. These copic markers are alcohol based, so I'm gonna color the house on the left pink. Gonna start by using my lighter of the two. Usually

with Copics you want to use them in pairs or even three markers together that blend well. I'm using just two here. I go in on the edges. And add a little darker pink. And then I go back to the lighter one and blend that back together. It's easier to see on a bigger image but I like to do it on everything I color with my Copics. I'm gonna add a little pink to the chimney as well. And, sorry I keep opening my pink, but I'm gonna add a little to the door as well. And then my house on the right, I think I want it to be purple. I'm just gonna go ahead and color straightforward with this. I'm not even gonna blend. Just some quick little coloring. And then my door on that one's gonna be blue. I'm gonna go ahead and add a little blue to my snowflakes as well. I'm just gonna trace along the lines. This coloring doesn't have to be perfect because I'm actually gonna come in with some glitter at the end, because you know I love my glitter. Some quick color to that. And then I'm also gonna ground the houses with a little line of this blue marker. And the tree. And then add a little along the roof as well. And that's where I'm gonna put my glitter when we get to that point. Think I'll go ahead and add my glitter now and then I'll set this piece aside to dry. I'm just grabbing another card. I like to have something for my glitter to be caught in once I sprinkle it on. I'm gonna use my liquid glue and trace along the snowflakes. Just to add a little sparkle. Also along my roof where I put that blue. And right along the ground as well, so it's sparkling with the snow. This time I'm gonna use my Icicle glitter which is a pure white glitter, rather than the iridescent that I also love to use. Gonna sprinkle it on, cover all the little parts that I put glue on, and then shake it back off again. That's sparkly and pretty, and I'm gonna set it aside to dry, and gather my glitter back into the bottle. So when I'm coloring, another coloring medium I love to use are my pencils. And I especially love to use my pencils on dark or colored card stocks. The images just pop. You can see I colored this one already after stamping with our unicorn white ink. And also on the craft paper, which we call sand. And I'm just gonna show you how that works. You can see how that absolutely pops on the black card stock. These are Polychromos pencils from Faber-Castell. And they are just smooth and wonderful, but there are lots of great coloring brands out there for colored pencils. Then I'm just adding a little bit of shading with the darker green, just like I did with the Copics. I do the exact same thing with my pencils. And that kind of blends it together as well when you go back and forth between the colors. But for this project I'm going to use some little animals, some cute little animals that I already die cut and colored with my Copics. A bunny and a kitty. And we're gonna use those as part of our pop-up card. Gonna push those aside as well. Another element I need for this card, it's all gonna make sense soon, but I'm gonna stamp a house. This is using a bold print background stamp. This is a six by six rubber, it's on cling mount, but a way I like to use it a lot is just leaving it flat on my surface like this. I'm gonna ink it up with an ink cube. This is just like the die ink we've been using, but it's in a smaller ink cube which can be convenient. And when you're covering such a big thing like the six by six bold print, you just kind of dance your ink pad along over the whole surface. And you can also kind of think, well I don't need the absolute edges inked up because my house is not that big. So I'm only gonna put the ink where I'm really gonna need it to be. Then I set that right on top of it. And then I take a piece of scratch paper, and I put that down over top of that, and then I rub it. And that's how I get good coverage. This house was already die cut and ready to go. And I just made a little cobblestone background on the house. Looks like bricks. Because our house is gonna be part of our pop-up in the inside of our card, it needs to be scored. So I'm gonna grab my scoring tool. And I'm just gonna score it right down the center. So I'm gonna try to get that in there as even as I can. Go right down the middle with my scoring tool. Fold that in half. Roughly half, it doesn't have to be exact. It's just something to help get a good crease in our card. I'm gonna go ahead and use that tool to help the edge, just like a bone folder. Another element we need to

create our pop-up, our little strips of paper. These strips are two and a half inches by a half inch, and I scored along with that same scoring tool every half inch. And what I'm gonna do with these is I'm gonna create a little box. So I'm gonna fold along all those score lines that I had created. And then put that together as a box like this. I'm gonna use my liquid glue. You want to use a nice strong adhesive like this liquid glue. And put it together. And now I'm gonna do the same again with the other one. Put more liquid glue there to hold it. Make a little box. And then I'm gonna put my two boxes together to form what I like to call an eight. If you hold it like that it looks like an eight. So I'm gonna use some of my liquid adhesive to put that together. And this glue dries quickly but you do want to hold it in your hand, or hold it together just for a few minutes to make sure that it's good and set. Then to build my pop-up, I'm using a side folded A2 card for my card. And you can see the crease is going right down the center up and down. That is the same place that I want to set my little eight that I made, my little boxes. So you can see the line in between the two boxes is gonna line up directly with the crease of your card. So I'm gonna add my liquid glue to both sides of the bottom. And then I'm gonna set that right along that crease line. Now again you don't want to move too quickly with this. You want to give it time to set. I set the box here on the card just because that's where my house is gonna end up sitting on top of it. So you just want to make sure that wherever you place this, it could be up or down a little, but you want it to be where your element is going to be sitting on top of it inside the card. And now I'm gonna add some glue to the top of that and put my house on. So again when I'm putting my house on I want to make sure that that crease is lined up with the crease in my card. So you just want to make sure that you're setting it on, right on top of there, aligned with your crease. And again it's because you're gonna end up folding closed this card, so you want to make sure that it's all lined up. Go ahead and close it shut to help it set. The moment of truth. I'm gonna set that aside to dry. And, I'm going to go ahead and make my message that's gonna go inside here. Let me just make sure that that is touching completely. I'm gonna add a little message right above my house. I'm gonna use the Merry Christmas from the set which I already stamped. And I'm gonna show you how to make it so it has a little fishtail at the end. The way I like to do that is to take my scissors and I cut right in the center of the strip. And then I go in on both sides to cut the little fishtail. Now again this piece you're gonna want to fold in half because it's also gonna be on the fold line up there. And I'm gonna glue that right on top of my house. Finally I'm gonna finish this card by adding my cute little animals that I had cut and colored earlier. And I'm gonna do that with some foam tape. Just for another little bit of a pop-up element on my card. I'm gonna put that right on the back of my bunny. And put her right on the house. And then the same with the kitty. Very cute. Now for the front of my card, I'm just gonna cover it with a piece of card stock, slightly smaller than A2. So if A2 is four and a quarter by five and a half, this piece is cut down to four by five and a quarter. Again I'm using my liquid glue which I like because I can slide it right into position so that it is somewhat centered in the card. And then I'm gonna add some adhesive to the back of my panel. And put that right on the front of my card. And there you go, a super cute pop-up card with an idea that you can use year round for making pop-up cards for any occasion. I also want to show you some more cards that I did with coloring to show you great ways to color on cards. This is pencil coloring on craft paper. And I used pink and then blended it in with some white. And this card, I stamped on black card stock with white ink, and then used the pencils to color. I like to leave just a little bit of the white showing 'cause it adds a little bit of drama to this card. And finally one colored with Copics. This adorable kitty had some ink blending with the purple and the gray. And then I actually used the copic marker just to make dots all over the background. It's a fun way to add a little something extra to your card. As you build your skills, you

can combine all these different techniques and elements into your card making projects.

Day 7 - Peace on Earth - tone on tone

- Sometimes it's fun to stamp with an allover pattern, and our bold print stamps are just that. They are deeply etched red rubber stamps in a big six-by-six format. They're on cling foam, so you can actually stick 'em to a great big acrylic block, or I like to use 'em right on the tabletop. I'm going to stamp some blue paper today with blue ink for some tone-on-tone stamping. So when I'm inking this up, I'm gonna keep an eye on it and make sure that I'm really getting good coverage. I like to twist my ink pad just a little bit as I'm applying the ink all over the bold print. I'm gonna do my inking mostly in this corner over here, so I actually don't need to worry about all the way out to that outer edge. It looks like it's really nice and inked up, so I'm gonna set my ink aside, grab my blue piece of cardstock, and line it up right in the corner. The best way to do this is to put a piece of scratch paper over top, so your fingers don't get too terribly inky, as you're trying to get the ink to transfer from the stamp onto your cardstock. This is a piece of cardstock that I cut down to 3 3/4-by-five inches so that it can be mounted on an A2 card, and it has a little bit of border along the edge. Okay, now the moment of truth, very nice. I had already done the same thing with a slightly lighter piece of blue cardstock, and I'm going to now cut these strips apart and recombine them to make a two-tone background image for my card. Since these are five inches across, if I cut every one inch, it'll make even strips. So I'm gonna use my paper trimmer, I'm gonna put it at the five-inch spot, and then just move it over one inch to four inches. Do that again at three inches, again at two inches, and finally at one inch. And I'm gonna do the exact same thing for my second piece of paper. So this technique will actually give you two cards at once, basically, because you're gonna end up using part of each of these. So when I have 'em all in the correct order, I'm gonna take another piece of white cardstock, actually, it can be any color. It doesn't have to be white, but it's cut to the same size, which is 3 3/4-by-five, and I'm gonna start assembling my strips going every other color, so I'm gonna start at the one side, put some glue on the back, and set that right here on the edge of the paper, the little cardstock rectangle. Then I'm gonna take the next strip from the lighter color, add adhesive to the back, and line that up with the pattern. Going back to the darker color. There's a lot of possibilities for this technique. You could do it ombre look with several shades of the same color. You could do a rainbow looking card, but I thought all different shades of blue was fun for this design. I like to assemble it on a separate piece of white cardstock because then at the end, if it's just a little bit off, like down here along the bottom. You can see that it's not a perfectly straight line, No problem, I can just put it in my paper trimmer, and cut that off. How fun is that background? I'm gonna mount it onto a craft, a sand-colored card, 'cause that's one of my favorite colors, and I'm gonna start by putting it on some white, quick and easy. And now with my foam adhesive, to give it a little more dimension. I love that you can just rip off this foam without even having to get out your scissors. I'm gonna put one down the center as well just to give it enough support that when I send this through the mail, it's not gonna get messed up. I'm gonna put that on my card base, and then I'm gonna take a little bit more foam and put a message on. I used a message that says "Let there be peace on Earth." A wonderful message for the holidays, but this card honestly could be for year-round as well. And there you go, beautiful little card with a fun, interesting background. Wanna go ahead and show you one other idea of a card I made previously with the exact same technique, but this time it was a rainbow of colors, and I used a really fun, crafty theme. It says "Crafty friends are the best of friends." This is an idea that you can use with all different bold prints, background stamps, with all different colors of paper and ink to make it for any kind of occasion.

Day 8 - Advent Peek-a-boo cards

- We have a line of stamps and dies called peek-a-boo and they create fun little cards with doors that open to reveal messages. This die was originally designed for creating advent calendars, so there's 24 little openings in here, so you can create an advent calendar or you can just make a card to send a greeting to somebody and it can be used year around. We have stamps that coordinate with it that are holiday themed, but then we have ones for all occasions as well. I'm gonna begin by stamping the winter village stamp on black card stock using white pigment ink. This is a cling stamp, red rubber cling stamp. Smaller than our six by six bold prints. It's sized perfectly to fit on the cover a A2 card. And I am just inking it all over with my white pigment ink and then I'm gonna set the card stock right on top of it and press down with a sheet of scratch paper. This is a pigment ink, so I'll need to let it dry just a little bit, but it dries relatively quickly. There's my stamped image. Next I'm gonna die-cut this. So the fun thing about this are the dies that are made specifically to go with this. So as you can remember from before, the dies have a cutting side and a flat side. You're always gonna want your cutting side to be face down on your stamped image. The peekaboo also has a version that is a square door, but we're using the rounded door today. I'm not gonna worry about taping this one down today, because it's not as intricate as the little frame cut. Gonna just set that right on there, put the top panel on, and send it through. Okay. Take it out and there's my cute little piece with all the doors already cut. I'm gonna go ahead and cut one on a piece of scratch paper as well. Well, a piece of card stock that's A2 sized. And I'm gonna use that as a template for when I'm placing all of my messages on my card. So I'm just putting that down, running it through the die-cut machine again. Now this piece that I'm cutting right now I can just put this in with my materials and it'll be a tool that I'll use again and again, it's gonna be a template. And I'm gonna go ahead and cut off all of these little doors. So my template is ready to go. I'm gonna use these mini messages, there's two sets of mini messages. There's an everyday mini messages and then there's Christmas messages. Today I'm gonna use the Christmas messages with my winter village. And I'm gonna use a tool that I wanna tell you about. This is one of my favorite tools in all of stamping, it's called the MISTI, which actually stands for Most Impressive Stamping Tool Invented, so they knew what they were talking about when they invented this. So this is a great way to be able to put all the little messages under your doors without having to stamp them individually. We're gonna be able to stamp them all at once. So I'm gonna place my template in my MISTI and then I already put most of my messages on this and it's ready to go, but I have one more little message that says Merry Christmas and the way I put it in on here is I'm gonna place it inside one of the doors that I just opened up on my template. It's kind of sticking to my fingers a little, but you wanna get it right in there. And then you just close the lid and when you close the lid that picks up the stamp. So all my stamps are on my lid, ready to go. I'm gonna take a piece of a light blue card stock, that's what I have on the inside of my card, and I am going to go ahead and ink this up with my black ink. This is just like I would do on any other stamp, I'm just stamping it, inking it up with my ink pad. And any black would work for this. And then to stamp with a MISTI all you do is you close the door. You wanna make sure you're in the center, or in the corner, close the door, and press firmly across the whole lid. And the beauty of this tool is that if you mess any up, these all look pretty good, but let's say, oh, there does look like there's a little piece on that bird that has a missing part. It's because there was something on my stamp. So if I clean that and I go ahead and ink this back up as long as I'm still in the corner and lined up perfectly I can shut the lid, stamp again, and it fills it in perfectly. It makes it so easy to line things up. This is also great if I was using this card as my holiday card and I wanted to make multiples. I could just do it in a production line. Just keep inking it up, closing the lid

with another piece of paper, and moving along. So it's really great for mass producing your cards as well. Gonna set that aside. Now if you take the piece that I already cut and put it under here, or over this piece I should say, you can see that my little messages are lined up perfectly in my little doors. Now before I assemble my card I'm gonna go ahead and color in my village. I'm using pencils on this, it's one of my favorite techniques that I've talked about before. I love coloring with pencils on my black card stock with white ink. And I'm using some Faber-Castell pencils. I'm just doing really simple coloring on this. I'm doing all the buildings with the same blue, just giving it little accents here and there. It doesn't even matter where. Just to give it a little something. You can see how that blue pencil really stands out on the black. And it's completely okay to have already die-cut this and then color, but if you wanted to do it the other way around and color first and then die-cut that works fine as well. You could also do this on other colors of card stock, but I love to color on black, so that's what I chose for my card design. I'm not even doing any blending or anything on this, I'm just coloring it in, adding some fun colors to my card. Now onto the trees. I'm gonna add a little green to all my Christmas trees. Moving on, I'm gonna add some red to my little ornaments on the tree here. A little brown on this pile of wood. And then while I have my brown I'm gonna color my reindeer brown. Sometimes I like to keep my coloring simple and just pick a hand, little small handful of colors and use that throughout. Otherwise it can become overwhelming. There is a path on this stamp, so I'm gonna go ahead and color that brown. And then the final bit of color I wanna add to this I wanna make it look like there's snow all over the ground in this scene, so I'm gonna use a little bit of a white watercolor. White watercolor will work. I just have this little pan here. Now this is not watercolor paper, so you're not gonna wanna be super heavy handed and make it too wet or else it could pill. But I'm just gonna quickly add some in here. And as it dries it's gonna soften a little bit. So adding it all around the trees and houses. I like to use a water brush, 'cause it's nice and convenient. Has the water right inside and ready to go, but you could certainly use a watercolor brush, a paintbrush of any kind, and a cup of water. Just need to pay attention and know where my snow is versus where my roofs are. Okay, a little bit in here. I think in this area I added just a little bit too much water. One great thing with watercolor is you can just dab it right back off again, dry your brush a little, and then keep going. Okay, that's gonna take just a little tiny bit of time to dry, not long at all. And now I can assemble my full card. I'm gonna go ahead and put this piece that I stamped with all the messages onto a card base as that's having a minute to dry. Again, I'm using a side folded A2 card as my base. It's really my favorite format for cards. Sometimes I like top folding as well. Either way is great. Okay, go ahead and set that on there. Now when I glue this part I wanna be very careful where I put my glue, because I don't wanna glue any of those cute little doors shut. So I'm gonna go around the edge and then here and there where I can see that there's a space in between the doors. And if that's hard for you to see I'm sure when you have it in your own hands it'll be a lot more obvious. That one I went a little too far. Okay. That should do it. I'm gonna set that down right on top of it. You do wanna make sure that you still have your words in the same orientation that matches your openings in your front panel. And I had that Merry Christmas down in the bottom right, that's how I know it's where it's supposed to be. And there we go. So now I can open my little door and have the messages. And at this point I would go ahead and open all the doors just to make sure I'm not gluing any down. If you love glitter you could add a little glitter to the trees on this one, like I did over here once all the paint is completely dry, as well as the glue. I wanna show you some other ideas for using the same peekaboo stamp and die system throughout the year. First we have one that is called mail jumble. It has these adorable little letters on it and for this one I used the other stamp set, the mini messages that are good throughout the year. It has

messages like hot stuff, love you, you shine, dream big, hey there, you amaze me. I put those kind of messages in the doors. Have a nice day, you're the best. And again, a little bit of the glitter, because I love my glitter. And then this one is ice creams. Super cute and super fun for summer especially. Messages like, "You're a great friend." I even put little hearts in there, and again, "You're a great friend," "Hugs," another heart. With these peekaboo dies you could even add your own messages in these little windows, you could draw pictures, or you can add stickers to make your own personalized cards.

Day 9 - Sparkling - all-over die cut

- For this card we're using an all-over die. This one's called Snowflake Pattern Fancy die and it covers the entire A2 card front. There are several different dies that are the same, cover plate dies. They also come in styles that are great for year round such as this wood grain background stamp and even a nice leaf pattern for your card fronts. I've already run my piece of paper through my die cutting machine using this Snowflake Pattern Fancy die. It's a really intricate die with fine details. So for dies like this I run it through the machine and then back again to make sure it cuts thoroughly. This is the time I also use my pokey tool to help get all the little pieces out of the die itself and also to disconnect it from the rest of the pattern. I'm gonna use my snowflake pattern on the full front of my card. Another great thing about these dies is they cut around the perimeter so it makes a nice clean frame around your die cut piece. I'm gonna take a piece of scrap paper to put under this as I'm gluing so I don't glue my table and I'm gonna use my liquid glue. Now this is a lot to glue so I'm gonna go ahead and just dot around all over the whole panel. I don't wanna have it too oozy but again this glue dries clear so it's not gonna show if it is oozing out just a little. Go around the edges and just add dots here and there and then once I put it on my card front I'll see if there's any places that I think it needs more glue. I'm just gonna dot it, dot it all over and I am gonna put this down on a piece of lavender card stock. Purple happens to be my favorite color and I think it looks really pretty with the snowflakes. Okay that should be good. Now I'm gonna take my panel and flip it over, get this out of the way, right on my lavender panel. And again with my liquid glue I can scoot it around a little bit to get it centered and I'm gonna press down on those snowflakes and I'm gonna see some spots where it's kinda sticking up a little and that's where I know I need to go in with just a touch more glue. And so I'll take my liquid glue and I'll put a dot behind this snowflake and behind this one here. Just putting dots behind all the pieces that are poking up just a little bit to make sure they're attached down really well. This one looks like he needs another little dot. Next I'm gonna mount this to my card base. For this one I'm gonna use a top-folding card. Just puttin' some adhesive on the back. Here's my A2 top-folding card and I'm gonna flip this over and just line it up on there. I can hold it down for a second. Another tip I use sometimes is I take a great big acrylic block and put it right down on my piece while I'm letting it dry but this looks like it's going together well. I'm gonna add some glitter. I'm gonna try to put the glitter just down in one corner of my card. I'm gonna do that on a scrap piece of paper again. I'm just gonna go over my snowflakes. This time instead of adding dots I'm gonna really kinda cover the whole snowflake 'cause I want glitter everywhere. I'm gonna go along the arms and it doesn't have to be perfect. It can be a little messy as well. The more glitter the better, is what I like to say and I'm just kinda following the bottom-left corner of this card with my glue. You do wanna work somewhat quickly because this glue dries fairly quickly but not so quick that you can't get this done but you don't wanna take all day either 'cause you want your glitter to stick to it. Okay now that that's done I'm gonna take my Snowfall glitter, which is a really pretty iridescent glitter and just sprinkle it everywhere I just put the glue.

Okay, gonna shake that back off again and there's my beautiful glitter. I'll put that back into my container in just a sec. I'm gonna set it aside for now. To finish this card I'm gonna use this message from the Christmas messages set that says wishing you a sparkling holiday. I thought that went perfectly with all my glitter that's on this card. And again I'm gonna use foam tape to pop this up a little. Just gonna cut off a couple strips to put on the back of my panel which I had already stamped. Wishing you a sparkling holiday. We're gonna go ahead and line these up so that they're fully covering the back of my message panel, take off the backing, and stick it right down on the edge, lining it up with the edge of the card and there ya go. A quick, pretty card made simple with the cover plate dies. I love the overall simplicity of this card and how these dies make it so easy to cover your entire card and just make it sparkle with a little bit of glitter. This card was inspired by my Creative team member Jessica Frost-Ballas who designed the card originally in blue. I think it looks beautiful in both colors.

Day 10 - Happy Holidays - reactive inks

- Reactive inks are another fun ink that I love to use on my card projects. The inks come in a variety of colors, covering the whole rainbow. Today I'm gonna use Splash and Thistle on my project. I'm gonna use blending brushes today. This is a way to put the ink onto your paper in a circular motion like this. Another tool you can use are called blending tools. They have a foam circle at the end and they're used in this manner. I'm gonna begin by taking the Splash ink and blending it around the edge of my card. I like to tap off a little before I start blending. That just helps avoid having a harsh line on your paper. I'm applying sort of a light touch as I do this. I don't wanna push too hard. That also makes marks that you're not really wanting on your card. I'm just gonna take it all the way around. Reactive inks are a hybrid ink. They're both a bit of dye ink, but also pigment. They are more of a pigment, they sit on top of the paper and that helps them blend beautifully. They're called reactive because they actually react with water. I'm gonna show you that in just a minute once I get all my ink down on here. But if you love blending your inks, these are a great ink to use because they blend like butter. I'm gonna keep going over it until I have it dark enough to my liking. I should have stopped while I was ahead. Okay, now I'm gonna switch to the purple, which is called Thistle, and I'm gonna switch brushes for this. I like to keep one brush per color family, so I have a brush for all my blues, a brush for all my purples, reds, yellows, et cetera. Continue blending until you have a smooth blend on your card stock. Next, I'm gonna spritz this with water so you can see how it reacts. I just have clear water in my spray bottle and I'm gonna lightly mist. Now as this sits, it's gonna kind of bleach away the ink. You can see it starting to go already, and it's gonna leave dots of white where the ink used to be. This'll take a few minutes to completely react, and then you're gonna set it aside to dry as well. This one I worked on earlier, and it's already completely dry, so that's how it looks once it's done. I'm gonna set this aside now and go on to my message. Today, I'm using the happy holidays word die. It comes with an attached snowflake, but I'm not using the snowflake today. I'm just using the words. I went ahead and die cut it from watercolor paper. I'm using watercolor paper because I'm going to be using a watercolor technique on this piece and I wanna make sure the paper holds up to it. I'm using the reactive ink reinker. These reinkers are used to refill your pads. You just squeeze it along the top of the pad, but I'm gonna use it today for watercoloring. I'm gonna get my die out of the way, gonna put a couple dots of it here in my palette. Gonna get maybe a little bit more in there. Doesn't take a whole lot to do the watercoloring, but I wanna make sure I have enough, and I'm gonna use a water brush. Just gonna squeeze a little bit of the water over here into my palette to make sure my brush is good and wet. You could also

do the same thing with a paint brush and a cup of water. So I'm just gonna add a little water with it to water it down and then just paint right over my words, my die cut piece. Just wanna make sure I cover it fully. I'm going for a softer look, but if you wanted to add this, you can see how much darker it would be if you didn't water it down. Either way is completely fine. It's just whatever you prefer. Once I get all my ink on there, I just move it to a different piece of my paper just to make sure I didn't miss anything. When it's there with all that ink that I was painting on, it's hard to tell, so when I move it to the side, I just kinda look and see if there's any spot that needs just a little bit more ink. And then I would let this dry before I put it on my project. I'm gonna go ahead and set that aside. I did one earlier, again, it's dry now. Now this is great just as it is. I could put this on my card no problem, but I love my glitter, so I'm gonna go ahead and add some glitter to this piece. I'm gonna be using the icicle glitter, which is a clear glitter. And I'm gonna change out my paper so I don't get glitter on this. So again, I'm gonna take my glue, and I am just gonna trace around my entire piece that I have painted already. You wanna move a little quickly because this does dry, but it doesn't dry so fast that you don't have time to do this, but you don't wanna take forever as well. Okay, now that I have all my glue on, I think I'm gonna go ahead and turn my paper over just because I don't want any of my glitter to stick to glue that's on the sheet of paper. I'm gonna sprinkle it on. Pick up my piece, and we've used this glitter before. I've mentioned that you can see the glue as it's drying, but once that's dry, it's gonna look completely clear. You're not gonna see any of that glitter. Once again, I have a piece that I already did. I'm just gonna set my glitter aside for now. And here is one that I did earlier that is completely dry. And you can see that glitter makes it look like it's sugar coated almost. It's so pretty. Now to complete my card, I'm gonna take my panel that is inked up and beautiful, and I'm gonna add a little bit of snowflakes to the background just for a little something else in the background. This is a snowflake stamp from one of my stamp sets. Anything that's small like this from one of your stamp sets would work just fine. I'm just gonna put snowflakes here and there using the same splash ink that I used on the background. Just adds another little bit of something in the background. Okay. And then once again, I'm gonna apply glue to the back of my die cut piece. Don't need to put quite as much because I'm not trying to coat it like I did with the glitter. Just put it here and there to hold it down completely. Okay, and let's flip that on over. Put it right on my card. Now this I'm gonna wanna hold down for just a couple seconds. If I had something heavy, this would be a good time to put it right on top to keep that glue setting. And then I'm gonna finish this by putting it on a card base that I have lined with some plum paper. I thought that looked nice with the Berry Smoothie reinker that I used on the letters. So again, I'm gonna just put some glue on the back of that. I like to use my liquid glue so I can adjust where I'm putting it. Again, it looks great just as it is, but I am a fan of bling, so I'm gonna add some sequins to this as well. I spread out a little bit of a sequin mix here in my coffee filter. That's an easy way to catch things like this. This mix has some clear sequins in it, so I'm gonna look for some of the clear sequins. There's one. And I'm just gonna put those down with my liquid glue. I think I've used a lot of my clear ones already because I love them. Okay. And again, you see that glue now, but it's all gonna disappear in the end. I think I'll just add three to this card. They're sticking to my fingers. There we go. So a beautiful glittery card for the holidays. I think that just screams holidays with all that glitter. The reactive inks are so much fun to play with. Experiment with them and see what you'll come up with. Remember to clean your brushes when you're done. The ink will sit in there. You wanna go ahead and just wipe 'em off on a scratch piece of paper. If they're really inked up, you can always take 'em under cold water. Don't use hot, that could react with the glue in these, but if you use cold water, you should be able to clean them up great.

Day 11 - Wreath - Fancy die cut

- I love A2 cards, but sometimes it's fun to change up the shape just a little bit. When creating this card, I added the fancy die wreath hanging off the card. To make it the right size, I'll need to cut off a little bit of my card at the bottom. Gonna do that with my paper trimmer. I already added this craft square to my card. I like to use a blank card as a guide when I'm cutting to make sure that it all ends up the right size. I'll use that in a second. First, I'm gonna just cut this down so it's square around my panel that I added. We're gonna prep our wreath to add to this card, and then I'll show you how it all comes together. I'm using a fancy die today that is a two-part die. It has an inner part and an outer part. You can use it in two ways. You can use them together to create a piece that's completely standalone on its own, or you can use just the inner part and die cut that directly into your card stock. And then you have a beautiful, sort of a inlaid piece of die cutting in your panel which you could put on a card, and it'd be beautiful. But I'm gonna use the separate part today. Now, when I'm figuring out where this will go, I'm just gonna show you this tip now, and then we'll start coloring our wreath. I use a blank card, and I line it up. And so that's how I'll know where I'm gonna glue it down so that I still maintain that A2 shape in general so that it fits into a standard envelope. But let's get this colored to add to our card. I'm gonna use my Reactive Inks to color this wreath. Let me grab my palette, put it where it's handy. These Reactive Ink re-inkers are good for refilling your Reactive Ink pads, but I like to watercolor with them as well. They do require a little shaking. And I'll squeeze a bit into my palette. I'm using red, I'm using Green Apple, and I'm also using Lemon Drop, and then finally Fog, which is a grayish, greenish color. I'm also gonna have a towel handy. You could use a paper towel. I like to use this microfiber cloth. That's just for dabbing off my brush as it's wet and I wanna go between colors. I'm just getting it going with a little bit of water. I'm gonna water down. Actually, I'm gonna start with the green. Get that back off my brush. Okay, gonna add a little water to my green. I like to go in with a really watered down green first, so I'm getting that as wet as possible. You can always add more color to your piece, but if you start off really heavy-handed to begin with, it makes it hard to go back and add more color. I cut this piece out of watercolor paper. I like to use watercolor paper when I'm doing this because it stands up to all the water I'm using. If you use regular card stock, you might get too much peeling, or it might even kinda start peeling apart. When you're coloring the green, if you look at this design, there's little birds in here, so I wanna try to avoid the birds. Wanna come back in with those on those with red in just a bit. Just putting down a first layer of green, kind of light. My watered down Reactive Ink. Okay, I'm gonna go in with a little bit of green mixed with yellow just to give it another little color in there. Just add it here and there. When I watercolor, I like to do really loose watercoloring. I'm not worried a whole lot about where I'm putting the color. Kinda looks natural that way. Then I'm gonna go in with a really solid green and add that to some of the leaves. This is green that hasn't really been watered down much at all. If you get to where you can't really see what you're doing, you can always shift your piece 'cause once you have all that water on your background, it makes it hard to see all that ink. Just adding it here and there. Now, with the fog, the reason I have the fog there, I'm gonna add just a little bit of that with yellow, and that's gonna make almost a brownish color to put on my branches. I'm just gonna add it here and there. I keep going back and forth between the colors. If you really want your colors to not mix together, you'd have to let it dry in between layers, and that's actually what I'm gonna do to go back and add my red for my birds. So I'm gonna set this one aside to dry, and I have another one here that's to this point. Gonna clean my brush a little bit by letting some water out, drying it on my towel. And now I'm gonna go in. You can see the birds here don't have paint yet, so I'm gonna add a little bit of red to my birds. This one I'm

gonna be a little more careful to try to stay in the, within the outline of the bird. Once you get the color on, you can let it dry just a bit, and then I go in with a little bit more concentrated red just like I did with the green and add that for some shading. You could also use some of that Fog to shade it if you wanted to. I'm not a master painter or anything, but I think adding watercolor is fun to your projects. It makes you feel like you're quite the artist using your paints. Go in with a little bit of that fog. Okay, so there's my piece. Again, that one I'm gonna let dry, and I have one that's already been done. Gonna clean off my brush just a little. To clean these water brushes, you just squeeze out some water until they come clean. And wipe it on a towel. Gonna scoot things just a little so that this wet paper doesn't get on my finished card. And I'm gonna go back to my piece that I put together before and my blank card that's A2 size so I know where to glue. I'm not gonna wanna put my glue on the part of my wreath that's gonna hang off the edge, so I wanna be careful about that. So I only want my glue to be maybe this far down on my wreath. I'm gonna use my liquid glue again. Like I've done in the past, I'm gonna just add glue here and there. I'm gonna put this down right on my card front. Press it down. So I have that together. I'm gonna put my other card to the side. It's beautiful like this, but I always like a little bit of shimmer on my projects, so I'm gonna use a Glimmer Metallic Ink. These Metallic Inks, you have to shake 'em up a little. They come in a little glass bottle with an eyedropper, and they add so much shimmer and shine to your projects. And I'll talk more about these inks on another day, but I'm gonna go ahead and just put a little bit of it on this card as well. Again, I'm gonna take a scrap sheet underneath so I don't make too big of a mess on my work surface. Water it down with some water. And then I'm gonna just do some flicking of the ink. I'm also gonna go in and just add a little bit here and there to some of the branch areas. Just gives it a little bit of shine and shimmer. This is the rose gold color, and I think it goes nicely with this wreath. I think this card needs a message, so I'm gonna use a message from this stamp set. It says, "From our home to yours." A wreath seems like a good card for that message because you have a wreath on your front door, and that's, it makes you think of home. So I'm gonna use my black ink and put that right in the center of my wreath. I'm just gonna just stamp off just to make sure that it's stamping well. There we go. That's a little hint that, a little tip you can use. If you wanna make sure that you're getting good coverage on your stamp, you can just try it on a scratch piece. There's my message. And then I'm gonna finish this with a little bit of ribbon, a little bit of twine, I should say, on my wreath. I'm just gonna tie this as a standalone piece, and then I'm gonna glue it on. To make an easy bow, I just take two loops and then tie the loops together just like some kids tie their shoes. Pull it together. Adjust the bow to my liking. Right. Let's see, I'm gonna put that at the bottom. So I'm gonna cut those down to about there. Cut off the end of my ribbon. And then again I'm just gonna put a dot of glue at the bottom and put my bow right on there. That will set and hold the bow on there perfectly. And there we have a little bit of different idea to our A2 size card. If you wanted to make a card like this that isn't quite as holiday-themed, you could use blues on your birds. This is the same exact idea in a different design.

Day 12 - Snowflake - heat embossing

- The thing in stamping when you're first learning that is the complete wow factor and magical, that you're like, "How does that even work," is heat embossing. So I'm gonna tell you all about that today. I'm gonna show you a couple ways to do heat embossing. First we're gonna do it on a completely separate piece of paper. I have another die cut. I love my die cuts. This time I cut out this beautiful snowflake cluster, and we're gonna do embossing directly on this piece. For heat embossing you use a sticky ink. This is our Embossing and Watermark ink. You can use it as an

embossing ink, which we're doing now. It's also a watermark ink, which means you could do tone-on-tone stamping, but the reason this works for embossing, is that it is a sticky, slow drying ink. So we're gonna ink up our complete piece directly. I'm just gonna pounce right down on top of it. (pounding) Then I'm going to carefully pick that up and put it over on a coffee filter. I like to use coffee filters in my crafting. They're really easy to use, and convenient, and cheap. I'm gonna sprinkle it with this powder. So this powder's a special kind of powder that melts when you heat it. Make sure it's completely covered. I'm gonna use some tweezers to help pick it up. I'm gonna try to hold it just by the edges. I'm gonna shake it off just a little. Now, the magical part is when you heat it. So I'm gonna use an embossing tool for this. This is a special tool that's made just for embossing. Some people think, "Oh, I'll just use my hair dryer, "it'll be fine." Well actually, it doesn't work well. The powder will just fly away. This has a concentrated little point on it that directs the heat right where you want it, but it gets very hot. So if you're using a tool like this with the metal tip, you wanna make sure you don't touch it or else you will burn yourself. All right, it's gonna be loud for a second. I'm gonna turn on my tool. (high pitched whirring) And you let it heat up for a second before you start the process. And you can start to see the magic happening as it turns from a powder to a shiny raised surface. So that is gorgeous just like that, but I like it to be a real thick piece when I'm gonna put it on my project, so I'm gonna go ahead and do another coat of the silver embossing. Again, I'm tapping it with my embossing ink. (pounding and clicking) Gonna put it back over my coffee filter. There's still some in it from last time. I'm gonna catch all this powder again back into the bottle so I can reuse it. A little bit of embossing powder goes a really long way. Gonna sprinkle it all over again, then I'll pick it up again with my tweezers, with the help of my tweezers. You could actually hold it with your tweezers to help make sure you don't burn your fingers. As you saw, I was kind of holding one little part of it as I heated it with my tweezers. Turn on my tool again. (high pitched whirring) And you can see how gorgeous this piece is. You're gonna wanna let it dry for just a second, because if you put your finger right on it, right when it's still hot, you'll make a fingerprint, and you don't wanna do that. Let's see how pretty that is. Shiny silver goodness. These powders come in a variety of colors. There's silver, gold, there's sparkle colors, black, all kinds of colors. I'm gonna go ahead and catch my powder back into my bottle, 'cause I wanna make sure and reuse that. (rustling) And now this piece is ready to go on my project. Sometimes you're not gonna do a whole piece like that. This was a whole die cut piece. Sometimes you wanna just put it as a message on your card, or anything you would wanna stamp, you could do an image, anything you can emboss. But I'm gonna do a message today, and I'm using velum card stock. Velum is a nice sheer card stock. This is a little bit of a tricky thing to emboss, because this is made of a, almost like a plastic, and it will melt. If you put that heat tool on it for too long, it will bubble up and burn and it is not good, so we're gonna be really careful with it. When I emboss something that is a fine print like the message I'm gonna do, I like to use an anti-static tool. It has a powder in there that when you rub it all over your piece, it'll help make sure that your embossing powder only sticks to the place you want it, which is my ink that I'm using. Takes away the static of the paper you're working on. So this time I'm gonna use a message from a stamp set that says, Joy to You and Yours. I already have it on my acrylic block. I'm gonna ink it up with my embossing ink. Now velum is a slippery paper, so you wanna make sure you're coming down straight and even, and don't move it back and forth, which can be a little tricky. It's stuck to my block. There we go. And now I'm gonna sprinkle this piece with the powder. I'm gonna make sure and cover my ink so I don't get powder in my ink. (paper rustling) (powder sprinkling lightly) I tap it off a little like this, this I look at it. If I feel it's good, I'm ready to emboss. If I feel like there's a little bit of powder still sticking around, you can

take a fine paintbrush like this, and just very carefully flick off any little extra pieces. I'm gonna heat up my tool so it's good and hot before I put it towards my velum. (high pitched whirring) So I only heated it until it was just done. I didn't wanna go too long on it. So there we have our pretty Joy to You and Yours message. Now let's put together the entire card. For the background of this card, I'm using our Noel Bold Prints background stamp, and I'm gonna use some Splash ink, and I'm gonna stamp it on a blue piece of card stock for some tone-on-tone stamping. This one's already been done. You can see the tone-on-tone stamping, and I'm gonna add just a little bit of shadow along the edges, using the same Splash reactive ink that I had stamped the background with, and I'm gonna do some ink blending around the edges. So I'm gonna tap off a little and then just blend it in. This is gonna make kind of a shadow around the edges of the card. (rubbing) Just give it a little bit more interest. (rubbing) Again, I'm using my blending brushes which are real easy to use, and I'm coming in from the edge of my paper inwards. (rubbing) (tapping) And just turning it around as I go. It's almost creating a bit of a vignette in the center of the card. (rubbing) (tapping) (rubbing) Okay, now a trick for velum. Velum will show glue through it, so you wanna be strategic with how you add that to your card. In this case, I cut my strip wider than my card stock so that I can just bend around, I could fold around the edges of the card, (paper folding) like this, and then I'll hide all my adhesive on the back side. Use my liquid glue. (cap rattling) Put a little bit of it here, tuck that piece down, and a little bit of it over here. Now I'm gonna put this entire panel onto a A2 card. So I'm gonna add glue to the entire back. This time I'm using a top folding card. So you could see it leaves a nice little white border around the card. To finish, I'm gonna add my beautiful snowflake cluster that I die cut and embossed in silver, with a little bit more of my liquid glue. (rustling) Just need to set that down to make it set, push it down, hold it down for a second. And if I find there's a place that still needs a little dot of glue I'll go back in and add that. Again, this glue dries clear, so you're not gonna see it once it's dry. (paper rustling) And there we have two ways to add heat embossing to our card for a beautiful shimmery card for the holidays. Heat embossing adds a lot to your cards. I use it year round.

Day 13 - Seasons Greetings - embossing

Heat embossing is such an impressive technique. I like to use it on a background stamp to create a very bold statement on my card. I'm gonna use the holiday foliage background stamp with some Palm cardstock and some Gold embossing powder. I love gold and green together, it's a beautiful combination especially for the holidays. I'm gonna begin by inking up my background stamp with the embossing ink. I wanna make sure I'm really getting it everywhere on my stamp so I don't have any gaps in my embossing. I'm gonna set my piece of cardstock right on top of it and I'm gonna grab another piece of scrap paper to put over top of that so I don't get ink all over my fingers and press down to stamp. You can see the tone on tone from that watermark embossing ink. Put the lid on it. I'm gonna sprinkle it with my gold embossing powder. I'm gonna go ahead and take a look at it and make sure that I have ink where I want it and not where I don't. Looks like I missed this corner a little bit. I missed the bottom corner on my stamping despite my best efforts. It would be a little bit too tricky to ahead and restamp this and line it up perfectly, so I'm just gonna heat this up to melt the powder and then I'm gonna set this aside and use it on another project. (tapping) Okay, the inking on this one looks good, I didn't miss my corners. So I'm gonna add the embossing powder. (tapping) Flick it off a little. And heat with my embossing tool. (tool humming) Isn't that gorgeous? Such a magical thing to heat emboss your cards. I'm gonna go ahead and put this onto a card base. It's a white card that I put a mat of gold cardstock and I'm going to grab my liquid glue. This panel

that I embossed is three and three quarters by five inches. I'm putting it on a A2 card that also has a mat that is four inches by five and a quarter. Holding it down just for a second for the glue to set. And that is just so gorgeous. All it needs now is a simple message. I chose the seasons greetings message from this color layering Nordic tree stamp set. And I actually already did that. I embossed that in gold as well using the same powder on a piece of white cardstock. And I'm gonna mount that on there with just a little bit of foam tape right in the center. I'm using these little squares. It's just like the foam tape, but it's already cut into little squares. And I'm gonna set that right in the center. And there we go, a beautiful seasons greetings card with gold embossing. These embossing powders come in a lot of different colors and sparkles. Here's an example of gold but it's called gold glitter and it has the glitter built right in. Have you ever tried putting glitter right on your stamping with regular ink, it's not gonna stick, it's just gonna fall right off, but when it's built into the embossing powder it'll stick and heat and look beautiful. There's also a silver sparkle. Here's an everyday card. Just a hello, I'm thinking of you card made with a background stamp and silver sparkle embossing powder. And here's the same silver sparkle with the background we just used but done on a light blue cardstock. So many beautiful ways to add metallic glimmer to your projects with embossing powder.

Day 14 - Holiday • Shaker • card

- Interactive cards are always so much fun, and one of my favorite kind of interactive cards is a shaker card. (sequins rattling) Shaker cards can be made with simple shapes, but I like to step it up and use a fancy die to create my shaker. To make this card, I'm using a Very Merry Tree fancy die. You could make a shaker card with a simple shape like a circle or a square, but I wanted to really make something interesting and unusual, so I'm using this tree die. I'm gonna cut the tree die from card stock that is already printed with wood grain. So I'm gonna die cut that like this, which I've already done. So this is how it looks once it's die cut. It creates a little bit of a window that we can put our shaker materials inside. Gonna grab a piece of scratch paper. I'm gonna color on the words of this just so you can see it a little easier. Any kind of marker will do for this. I'm using my Copic marker, but any kind of marker would work. I'm just coloring right where the words are, and I chose a color that's gonna go with my background piece on my shaker eventually. Once my coloring's done I'm gonna scoot over to the side and just make sure I didn't miss any parts. So now I want to create a window so that all my little sequins and things that I put in my shaker don't fall out. I'm gonna do that with a piece of acetate. Acetate is sold in a package like this with many sheets. I cut mine down to just big enough to fit behind my die cut. If you have any plastic, perhaps from packaging laying around that you might want to repurpose, this is a good reason to save it. All right, I'm gonna ahead and use my liquid glue. It only really needs to be attached near the window. I'm gonna go ahead and put some on the letters too so that they'll lay nicely on the acetate. All right, and then I'm gonna let that dry completely, 'cause I want everything to stay together well on my shaker. So I'm gonna set this one aside to dry. I have another one I've already made. Next I want to create some dimension in my card so that all the bits in the shaker will stay in place. If I just put this flat on my card, it's not gonna work. There's no place for the sequins to go. There's a couple ways you could do this. You could use the foam tape that I love and you could cut little pieces to go tightly around your window, but that could take a lot of work with a design like this. Instead, I'm gonna use fun foam. Fun foam is found at your craft store, usually in the kids aisle. You can find it double stick, which is what I have here, which makes it really easy to stick to your card, and I just ran it through my die cutting machine with my die, just like I did the front of the card, I did it again with

the fun foam. You can see that it has the stickiness, maybe, there we go. It's sticky there, and then you can also see that I die cut the words right out of the panel. I'm gonna go ahead and pull this all apart. You could have the message still stuck in there. It's die cut, just like the paper was, but that's gonna be really, really hard to line up those little fine letters on the card, so I'm gonna go ahead and just take my scissors and cut those right off. I don't even need those anymore. I really just want the outline of the tree, and that is gonna be lined up perfectly with the front of my card. I have one that I already finished, so let's go ahead and move over to that. And this is what it looks like once you've taken out everything from the center. On the back of my piece that I already colored, I'm gonna first make sure I know which way it lines up. And it is like this, so I'm gonna go ahead and peel off that side of the stickiness. So I'm peeling off the backing. And then this is very sticky, I want to really try to make sure I'm lining it up well. Press that down completely. You want to make sure it's stuck down everywhere, because we don't want any holes for our shaker elements to escape from. Then this one has a little piece of it hanging off. I'm gonna trim that right off so it doesn't show. Okay, so now to make my shaker, I'm gonna mount it all on a piece of blue card stock. Gonna kinda see, eyeball it where I want my shaker to be. And in that spot, I'm gonna add my sequins. I'm just using a mix that has clear sequins, white sequins, and cute little stars. I'll put a little pile of that right in the center of my card. Make sure I have a good amount so that you can see 'em, but you don't want so much that your shaker won't be flush to your card. You could over-shake. And then, a little tip for making sure that the sides of the adhesive in there aren't too sticky and that your sequins won't all stick to the sides, is to put a little bit of this anti-static tool, the same thing that I use when I'm heat embossing, right along the edges, and that will help get rid of some of that stickiness. Then I'm gonna peel off the backing on the other side and line it up on my card. (sequins rattling) Isn't that fun? Now that whole thing, looks like I made it a little bit crooked at the top, so I'm gonna go ahead and trim that off. This whole thing is gonna be mounted onto an A2 card. This one I thought would be fun top-folded, and that covers up the whole card front. I want to have a little star at the top of my tree, so I've already cut out from glitter paper a really fun 12-point star. I'm just gonna glue that right down on the top of my tree. And it's great as it is, but I like to have even more bling on my cards, so I'm gonna use some glitter glue. This is the Stardust Stickles, and I'm gonna put that right along where my letters are, just tracing along the letters. Now this is a glitter glue, and it does take a little bit to dry, so I always add this very last to my cards when I'm using it, and then I set it somewhere safe where I'm not gonna put my fingers in it, because I have done that many, many times. So don't be like me, keep yours safe. You could also use a glitter pen if you were worried about the drying time, or you could just leave it as colored marker, don't even have to have this final bit of glitter if you don't want to. (sequins rattling) There's a blinged up shaker card for the holidays.

Day 15 - Winter hugs - glimmer metallic inks

- This is gonna be our last holiday card. I'm gonna add some shimmer and shine today with some glimmer metallic inks. Glimmer metallic inks come in a rainbow of colors. They have a little bit of some kind of pigment in them that makes them shimmer. And they come in a little bottle with an eyedropper. And they come in two-packs. I'm gonna use the two-pack that is blue and purple today. They also come in red and green, silver and gold, bronze and copper, and rose gold and white. These need a good amount of shaking before you use 'em, because you wanna make sure that pigment is fully distributed. I'm gonna go ahead and put some of this ink into my palette. Little bit of the blue, and a little bit of the purple. Now what I'm gonna put those on are some die-cut pieces, I

love my die cuts. This time I'm gonna use an edge border die that has a snowflake pattern to it. I've already die-cut some card stock to use today with this beautiful snowflake border. I use card stock, but you can also use watercolor paper. I am using water, so it might be a good idea to use watercolor paper, but I'm gonna just do some quick painting, and it's not gonna pill up too much. I'm not giving it enough time for that. I'm just adding the blue to my piece. I'm using it full strength. If it's not flowing well for me, I would have added a tiny bit of water, but not too much. I'm gonna make sure I have nice coverage, without too many streaks, or without any streaks at all, honestly. And now to incorporate the purple, I'm gonna go in, just grab a little of my purple, and put it just along the edges. Like this, and kinda blend it in. I wanna make sure it's blending into my blue. It's having a little bit on my paintbrush, not too much at all. I'm using a watercolor brush, but you can use a regular paintbrush as well. Then I'm gonna add a little of the purple to the snowflakes as well. Now let's move this over to the white portion so you can really see how it's looking. Let me see if I need to add any more anywhere. Maybe a little more purple to give it a bit more contrast with the colors. Blend that up. A little more of the purple up here. I'll paint the other one the same way, and then let them dry completely. I'm gonna set these aside for now. And here are some that I already did. I want you to see the shimmer and shine on this. Isn't that gorgeous? There's another die that's very similar that cuts a holly border. And I did that with the green, I love the green as well, look at the gold undertone in that green. It's so pretty. That's a lotta shimmer for the holidays. To finish my card, I'm gonna use my wood grain background die on a piece of card stock. This is called a texture die, it adds a nice wood grain texture to your card stock. And I have already done that and mounted it onto a A2 card, side-folding. I'm going to put my pieces along the edge using liquid glue. Now that that's glued down, I'm gonna add a message to the front of my card. I already embossed my message that says "Sending Winter Hugs" in silver embossing powder, on a piece I had die-cut, and then layered with vellum. I'm gonna go ahead and add some foam adhesive, I think, to give that a little dimension. Using my foam squares again. Gonna center that right on my card, and then I think I'll finish this card with a little bit of sequins. So this mix has some red berries, red sequins that look like berries, and some snowflakes. I think I'll use the clear sequins. I'm gonna put several dots down where I want my sequins to be, and then I'll cover those with the sequins. The holidays are a great time of year to make handmade cards for family and friends, but all the techniques we've been covering can be used for all occasions just by switching out the stamps and dies.

Day 16 - Monarch butterfly - color layering

- Now we're gonna start doing everyday cards using a technique we haven't tried yet, color layering stamps. Everybody loves butterflies, so I thought I'd start with butterflies. Color layering is a multi-step stamping process where the different layers of the image you're trying to create are in individual stamps. You ink 'em in different colors, building on the colors to create your final stamped image. On the back of the package, it shows the different steps to build your final image. There's all kinds of color layering sets, from butterflies to flowers to elephants to even an octopus. If there's something to layer, we've probably done it. So to build your image, you could just take your acrylic block and stamp like we've done in the past, putting each layer onto a block and stamping it one after another, but there's another way to do it that I think is really fun and easy. I'm using my MISTI tool for this. So to make a color layering butterfly in my MISTI, I went ahead and made a template that I put right inside of my tool. I used the matching die for the butterfly that cuts out the shape of the butterfly. When you purchase this set, the flower dies are inside the butterfly, but you would take your wire trimmers and just go ahead and cut those apart so they're not part of the final die.

Once I had my butterfly die, I die cut it three times into a piece of card stock, and then I put that right inside my MISTI using washi tape to keep it in place. When I stamp this, I'm gonna take another piece that's die cut, the final butterfly die cut, and I'm gonna move it from position to position, inking along the way to build up the colors on my butterfly. Let me show you how that works. I'm gonna use a ink cube set for this one. It has perfect colors for a monarch butterfly. I'm gonna use the soft vanilla, the neon orange, and the charcoal. This is just dye ink like we've used in the past. I even made myself a guide. This is an easy way to mass produce your cards too. If you wanted to make a whole bunch of butterflies, you have this template ready to go, and you just make a assembly line of your butterflies. So I'm gonna ink up the first layer of my butterfly with the lightest color. And then close the lid of my tool. Press down. Sometimes it sticks to the lid. And there's your butterfly. There's a little bit that isn't quite inked up, so I'm gonna go ahead and do it again. That's the beauty of the MISTI. You can just put it right back in there and ink it again. All right, that's better. Now I'm gonna put it into the next position. Use my neon orange ink. Close the lid. And then I'm gonna move it down to the final part, which is gonna be done in charcoal. This is gonna be the outline of the butterfly. I just tap the ink. That's how I use these little cubes. I just turn 'em over and tap 'em down. Easy peasy. Then I'm gonna press down again. And like magic, there is my beautifully inked up butterfly. One great thing about these color layering sets as well is a lot of 'em have a final image that is an outline, so you could use that all on its own. You could color it with whatever coloring medium you like, your Copics or watercolors or whatever. So now I have my beautiful finished butterfly, but I wanna give it another little something extra at the end, so I'm gonna add some embossing. This time I'm gonna use sparkle embossing powder to give it some shimmer. So for this, I'm going to take that first stamp that I used, which is the solid butterfly wings. And I already have that on my acrylic block. I'm gonna add some embossing ink to that. And I'm not doing this in my MISTI because this is really simple stamping. It doesn't have to be lined up absolutely perfectly because you're just adding sparkle. The sparkle can be wherever. But the way I'll line this up is I will look at his body. You can see the body is missing from the stamp. And I'll look through my clear block and just line it up as close as possible. And I'm gonna use some tweezers to hold him while I emboss him. This is a sparkle powder. It's a clear powder with a sparkle built right in. Shake it off. And now I'm gonna heat it with my embossing gun. (embossing gun whirs) See that beautiful shimmer it added to my butterfly? It's an easy way to really step up your card. I'm gonna put this onto a card that I've already prepared. For the background of this card, I used a texture die that is a crosshatch pattern, a really fun little background that is partially cut into my card stock. And then a piece that's a fun little ornament layer. And I think I'm gonna pop up my butterfly using foam squares. And I'm just gonna center that there on my element. For a message, I'm making this an everyday card, so I'm just gonna say a simple hello. There's a hello right in the stamp set which I have already stamped onto a piece of card stock. I'm just gonna put that down with my liquid glue. Gonna tuck the edge of it right in there. I love that my liquid glue stays wet for a little bit so I can position my sentiment just as I want it. And then I think I'll finish this card with some sequins. I have a really pretty sequin mix here, but I'm gonna go ahead and pull out the clear ones. I love clear sequins. Using my liquid glue, I'm gonna add some dots where I want the sequins to be. I think one down here. They say it's good to use a rule of three or to put 'em in odd numbers, so I put three at the top and one down at the bottom. And this clear sequin has a little bit of an iridescent color to it, so it goes well with the iridescent embossing. For this card, I used colors to make a monarch butterfly, but you don't always have to be true to nature in your stamping. I also like to do it in shades of blues or purples or anything really. I'll show you a example that's done in blue. That's a

pretty card I would really love to get in the mail from a friend.

Day 17 - Floral - cling stamps

- Sometimes it's fun to make your own card base. I'm gonna show you a quick and easy way to do just that. I'm starting with a white card stock panel that's cut to A-2. A-2 is four and a quarter by five and a half. I'm gonna take that piece and just score it right down the center. This one's already been done. You can see there's a score line right in the center of the edge that is five and a half inches. I'm gonna fold that in half to create my crease and this piece is gonna act as the hinge at the top of my card. So, this part will be the back of my card and this part will be the front of my card. This is another piece of card stock that's cut to A-2, four and a quarter by five and a half and I'm gonna adhere that right into the inside part of my hinge. I'm using liquid glue for this, but any kind of adhesive will work. For the front of my card I'm gonna use an acetate sheet. I'm gonna glue that right on the inside. See how that comes together to make a folded card. To give it a little decoration I'm gonna use a die-cut piece. I've already used a confetti die, which is a cover plate die to create this really pretty panel. I'm gonna glue that right into the inside of my card. I'm gonna be mindful of the fact that I only want glue to be in this top portion of that piece because I don't want it to show through the acetate. So, in the end these two pieces are not gonna be connected at the bottom half, only at the top. Another thing I wanna mention is I put the glue right on the front part of my die-cut. When you die-cut there's kind of a front and a back to it. If you feel it, the back side, the paper's coming down just a little bit, you can feel an edge on it. I'm using my front, smooth portion because that is actually gonna end up being the front of my card. I'm gonna glue that right into my acetate and I'm gonna let that dry completely before I shut my card because if there's any glue kind of oozing out, I don't want it to attach to that back piece. So I'm gonna set that aside to dry. To decorate the front of my card I used a stamp from our Hero Florals line. This one's called Overlapping Petals. It's a red rubber cling stamp and we have a line of six of these beautiful floral designs. I stamped and embossed this using black embossing powder and I'm gonna paint this with my reactive ink reinkers. I'm using Splash and Thistle, a blue and a purple, for this flower. Squeezing a little bit into my palette. I'm gonna cover the entire thing with light blue and on this it doesn't matter if you go outside the lines just a little bit because I'm gonna trim this with my scissors when I'm all done. I'm putting a wash of blue over the whole thing and then I'm gonna go in with my purple. I've taken a little bit of the purple. I'm gonna blend it right in with the blue and add a little bit more water to that, blend it out. If I feel like there's a little bit too much on one side I can just pick up that paint and move it over to the other side. I'm gonna go back in with a little bit more blue. Blend it together. I like to try and get some darker color into the nooks and crannies of the flower, as my friend, Kathy, would say. I think I'm gonna set that aside to dry and once it's dry I'll add just a little bit of yellow to the center as well. Here's the piece that I have already painted and it's dried completely. One little tip, when you cut out with your scissors, it can leave a little bit of a white edge along your flower, so I just take one of my black markers and I just line right along the edge with it. That makes sure to keep a clean edge on it. I went ahead and did that whole flower. So now, back to my card front. To finish the front of my card, I'm gonna put a little separation between those two pieces, so I just have a black strip of card stock that I have cut to four and a quarter across and about a half inch high. Put a little liquid glue on that. I'm gonna put that right along that seam. It doesn't matter where. I can either put it right below it, right on top of it, either way, right above it. I'm gonna add my flower with a little bit of foam adhesive to give it a little bit of dimension. I like to put enough on here so it doesn't get smushed if I send it in the mail. And then for a message, I

picked this little Hero Greeting set that has several fun little messages and I'm using the Just for You. I've already stamped that onto a piece of card stock I've die-cut into a circle and I'm gonna tuck that right under my flower. You know I love my sequins, so I'm gonna add some blue sequins to this card. Spill out a few on my work surface to find the ones I wanna use and add some dots of glue to my card. And I'll go ahead and set those down right where I put the glue. The glue's gonna dry clear, so it doesn't matter if you're seeing it peeking out from the sequins right now. It'll all be good when it's all dry. So, this Just For You card is great for Mother's Day, for birthdays or just to say hello to a friend.

Day 18 - Butterflies - infinity dies

- The thing I love about infinity dies is they come in many different motifs, different useful shapes that you can use on your cards, like squares and circles, but they also come in fun designs like butterflies. I'm gonna use this very smallest butterfly from this nested butterfly set to create a background on my card. I began by die-cutting that butterfly over and over with two different shades of orange cardstock. Once I had them all cut out, I got my card base together by mounting on a black card a layer of one of the oranges, and a piece of white cardstock. Now I'm gonna try to figure out my pattern and mount my butterflies on here. I'm working with 24 tiny butterflies that I've already applied a foam square adhesive to the back. I think I'm gonna make an array of butterflies that is four across and six down, going every other color as I build up my background. I'm gonna get my spacing on the top and side how I want it and from there it's gonna be easier to fill in all the rest of the butterflies. Now that my array of butterflies is done, look at that fun dimension it has on this card. If you really wanted to be precise with your placement, you could take a pencil and ruler and draw out a grid and make sure they're all completely evenly spaced, but I'm more of an eyeball it, and make it close enough kind of gal, so I like how this looks. I think I'll tuck in a little piece of glitter paper at the bottom. And then to add an everyday message to this card, I chose Thinking of You, which is from a small Hero Greetings set, right there. And I am gonna just tuck that in with some foam adhesive, kind of in the center of my card. I want to make sure I put the foam squares where they won't be right on top of any butterflies, so I think I'll put those down first where I know the strip will cover them up. Peel off the backing paper. And this strip, this message strip I embossed in white on black cardstock. And this is a fun way to use my infinity dies for making multiples and adding dimension to my card.

Day 19 - Elephants - masking techniques

- Up until now I've shown you how to use one stamp at a time. I'm gonna show you how to group stamps together with a technique called masking. For this card I'm gonna use the color layering elephant set, but I'm only gonna use the outline elephant and stamp it by itself. For masking, you're creating a mask to put over your stamped image to block off any other stamping from getting on top of it. I could use my die to cut out an elephant, but I don't want to. When you die cut it leaves a little white edge around your image and I want it to be cut exactly close to the borders of the elephant. I'll be using masking tape for this. You could also use a Post-it Note or even a scratch piece of paper. I like to use this tape because it is sticky on the back and it will align right over my image and not have any movement while I'm stamping. Just gonna roll a little bit off my roll. Enough to stamp my elephant. (paper rustling) Perfect. I'm gonna stamp my little elephant right on my masking paper. And then I'm gonna fussy cut around the elephant to trim him out completely. You can see that the masking paper's removable. It's not a permanent adhesive, so you just pick it right

up off your paper. And now I'm gonna trim around him. As I'm trimming him out, I like to go either right on the line or even just a little bit inside the line. I don't wanna leave a border around him because that will leave white space on my card when I'm doing my stamping. I don't care about the tail on this because it's really not gonna show in my design, but if you wanted to make sure that your tail is not stamped over you would keep that as you're cutting out your mask. I've already cut out several elephant masks that I'll use on my project. I'm gonna stamp on a piece of cardstock that I've cut down to four inches by five and a quarter. And using my black ink, I'm gonna stamp my first elephant over in the left hand corner. (tapping) Now I want my next elephant to look like he's right behind the first elephant. So, to do that, I'm gonna put a mask right over top of him. I wanna make sure I have it nicely lined up within the lines of my stamped image. This is a mask I've already used so you can see some other stamping over top of it already. That's the great thing about these masks; I just tuck them into my stamp set and I use 'em again and again until they stop being sticky. I'm gonna use another mask over this elephant to stamp one to the right of him. (tapping) And I'm gonna put a mask on top of this elephant as well. I like to use several elephant masks. It makes it easy to make my design come to life. (tapping) Now for some elephants up above and beyond these elephants to make it look like a whole herd of elephants. (tapping) And again, I'm gonna put two more masks right over these elephants. Now the magic happens when I peel off my masking paper. The elephants all look like individual elephants. There's no legs where there shouldn't be or tusks where there shouldn't be. All the elephants look like they're separated. Now I'm gonna color my elephants so you can really see 'em come to life. For this card I'm gonna make one elephant stand out differently from all the rest. I'm gonna use a message that says, "You'd stand out in any crowd", so I think since I have a crowd of elephants that's kind of perfect. So I'll begin by coloring my purple elephant. I'm using my Copic markers, and I'm using a blending trio; three markers that blend well together. And I'm just gonna begin with the purple, with the lightest color. Next I'm gonna go in with my medium colored purple marker and start to blend the colors out. I'm just gonna go along, getting in the nooks and crannies, different parts of my elephant. And now the darkest. Back to my medium to blend that out. And ending with my lightest again. I always like to add a little rosy cheek to my colored animals, so I use a pink for that. Just add a little dot of pink on his cheek. I'm gonna do the same process with my grays. My other elephants will be of various colors of gray. I chose three different color families; a neutral, a cool, and a toner. Just because I wanted to have the elephants have some variation and not be all one neutral tone of gray. I have one that I've already completely colored, and here's my finished card. You can see the difference in the color of the elephants using the different color families of gray. I colored them exactly the same way that I did the purple elephant in just the different grays and added the pink to the cheeks. And then I stamped my message on a piece of cardstock and mounted it on with foam tape. It says "You'd stand out in any crowd". And my purple elephant definitely stands out among the elephants. This color layering elephant set is one of my very favorites. You can see it's well loved. Here's a card showing the elephant in its color layering technique, and I made it into a birthday card.

Day 20 - Sunburst - ombre inks

- Hero Arts makes lots of great ink pads, and one of my favorites that we haven't talked about yet are the Ombre Ink Pads. Ombre Ink Pads come in a variety of colors. The pads have three ink colors all in one that are separated by a little tiny gap. This one's called Chartreuse to Blue. I'm gonna use it with one of my Bold Print background stamps. This one's called Sunburst. When you're inking up your stamp, you wanna do a little cha-cha dance with your ink pad so that you don't have a line

across your stamped image. So you go back and forth like this just a little bit. Doing a little cha-cha, until you have good coverage. Since this is such a large stamp, I'm gonna now rotate it so that my blue remains in the center and do the other half of my stamp. Doing the cha-cha the entire time. I'm gonna use the method for using a Bold Print, where I set my paper right down on the stamp itself. I want my design to kinda go like this, so I'm eyeballing where that will be when I put my card stock down. And this is a card stock panel that I've cut to four inches by 5 1/4. Gonna go ahead and put a scrap piece of paper down on top of it so that my fingers don't get too terribly inky and rub well so that all that ink transfers to my paper. And there you go, easy peasy to get a nice ombre look on your card stock. To make a simple card today, I'm gonna add a message to this. I've already stamped "Be the Change You Wish to See in the World," a nice quote. I'm gonna wrap some twine around the piece. Just several layers of twine. Cut with my scissors. And then I'm going to tie a bow. I'll trim off the ends of my bow that are a little long. And this'll be mounted on my card front with foam tape. I'll use my squares for this one. They're nice and easy. One of the reasons I like to use foam tape with something like this is because I put the twine around it, and that adds a little bit of dimension. And when I add the foam, it gives it a little height so that will lay nicely on my card. I'll put that right down on there. And I used this Splash Ink for my message. I've already stamped a cute little bird from this stamp set, and I'm gonna put him on with foam as well. And I'm gonna put some glue on the back and just mount this entire thing on an A2 folded card. I think I'll use a top-folding card this time. Since this panel's cut a little bit smaller, it'll leave a nice border around the card. That is a fun way to add lots of color to my card all with one ink pad. I love my Ombre Inks.

Day 21 - Birthday - Ink smooshing

- In the past, we've stamped with our Reactive inks and water-colored. Today I'm gonna show a fun new technique called ink smooshing. Make sure you have a non-porous craft mat for this project. I'm using something silicone. Any kind of craft mat will work. And the technique is just what it sounds like. I'm gonna smoosh my ink pads right down on this surface. I'm using Thistle and Pool Party Reactive inks, and I'm gonna put 'em face down and just smoosh 'em right on my pad to get a little bit of color. Gonna do both of 'em kinda near each other, but not necessarily touching. I'm gonna spritz this really well with water. (water spritzing) I'm gonna use a piece of watercolor card stock. It's gonna hold all this wet ink better than regular card stock. I'm just gonna smoosh it down in there. You can see how the inks are blending together and looking so pretty. Gonna kind of tilt my card to help it move along. Can even take a water brush and help it move right down to the edges. This I'll set aside to dry, or I could even hit it with my heat tool. I think I'll do that today. Let me wipe off my surface first. We have a lot pooling at the edge. I like to take a towel and just kinda dot, blot that out a little bit as well. And now I'll heat it. (heat tool whirring) That's pretty well dry, but I'm gonna set it aside and make my butterflies for the front of my card. This is the stamp set I'll be using. I'm gonna be using this butterfly as well as this happy birthday message. I've already stamped and die cut a butterfly on a piece of watercolor paper. I'm gonna use these same inks. Gonna moosh a little bit back down onto my mat. And this time I'm gonna watercolor with them. I'm using my water flow brush. Gonna pick up some of the purple, the Thistle color, and paint that right into the center of my butterfly and along the wings. And a little tip, I cleaned off my craft mat, you could have left that ink there and used it for this as well, instead of having to get out new ink. Now I'm gonna take the Pool Party color and I'm gonna put that on the tops of the wings. I want another color at the bottom of wings. I think I'm gonna go ahead and blend together these two colors to

make a third color, which is kind of what happened in my background as well, as those colors met. This makes more of a, almost a periwinkle color. This is another favorite technique with these Reactive inks, you can blend 'em together to make all whole new colors for water-coloring. Okay, that also would sit aside to dry. I'm gonna repeat this process twice so I end up with three butterflies. And once the butterflies are completely dry, I'm gonna go ahead and add some glitter to them. (water spritzing) This time I'm gonna use a chunky glitter that's called Snowfall, and it's an iridescent glitter. Really pretty. Using my liquid glue, I'm gonna put some dots of glue right on the dots that are on the butterfly design. Putting it into a coffee filter to catch the loose glitter. Gonna sprinkle the glitter on. Shake it back off again. And now I have a little bit of sparkle on my butterfly. I'll catch that glitter back into the pot, set it aside. And now to finish my card, that beautiful background that I created, I'm gonna mount onto a card. I've already put a piece of blue on my card front, and a strip of silver glitter paper, and I'm gonna put this panel right here. But before I commit it to being on the card, I'm gonna stamp my message. You want to make sure your piece is completely dry before you stamp on it, otherwise your ink will just smear. So I'm using my black ink. And I'm gonna stamp happy birthday over to the right, about halfway down, which I will end up surrounding with butterflies. Now I'm gonna put that on my card front. Okay, now it's time to mount my butterflies on there. Gonna have them floating around my message. One at the top, one at the bottom. I think I'll put these on flat. And my third butterfly, I'm gonna put on with a little bit of the foam squares to give it dimension. And there's my finished card.

Day 22 - Rainbows - resist technique

- So far we've been using embossing to enhance our designs. Today I'm gonna show you how to use it as a resist. I use my Blossoms for Coloring Bold Print background stamp and I emboss with clear powder. It might be hard to see on camera, but it's a clear outline of embossing on my white cardstock. We're gonna make this pop by adding some reactive ink to color our background. I picked out inks that are a nice rainbow of colors. Fruit Punch, Creamsicle, Lemon Drop, Key Lime Fizz, Splash, and Thistle. And I'm gonna use these adorable color-coded brushes for my blending today. I'm gonna go ahead and put the colors with the inks that I'll be using 'em with. I like to have one brush per color family so these are perfect. They even have the colorful handles to help me remember which color I've used. I'm gonna begin with the red, which is Fruit Punch. I'm gonna start at one end of my card and begin blending. When I blend with these brushes, I like to ink 'em up and then tap off on my piece of paper, and then just come in lightly with the ink. You'll start to see our design appear that we embossed on there with clear. At the end I'll show you a technique to really make that floral design pop out. But we'll continue with our ink blending for now going from color to color. As I do my ink blending, I like to go back into the first color or the color that came before to make sure that they're blending together seamlessly. Another tip, as I do this, I'm trying to picture in my head six colors and how they're gonna fit on my card. So I'm trying to do about a sixth of my card at a time, picturing where the center is. And this looks like there's a little bit of a gap here, so I'm gonna go back in with my yellow again and just add a little bit more ink. You can always go back to the color before to make sure your colors are blending together really well. Here you're seeing where the orange and the yellow are blending together, then you have the lighter yellow and then the green. Now onto our blue. I'll give you a tip with using reactive ink. Sometimes you can get your fingers really inky by touching what you've already done. One thing I like to do is take washi tape. And what I do with my washi tape is, believe it or not, I put it right on my fingertips. Then that's something I can use to hold my paper without leaving fingerprints. Once I'm done with my ink

blending, I take a final look and decide if there's any color I wanna go back in with for a little more. I think I'm gonna try to put a little bit more green in here. Okay, now for our final step, I'm gonna take my wash off my finger. Put that aside. And I'm gonna grab a baby wipe. Now, before I put this baby wipe on my beautiful background that I've created, I wanna ring out any excess water. I'm gonna do that right over my palette. Oops, make sure I don't get it on there. I'm just squeezing out any extra moisture that's in there. I just want it barely damp. And now I'm gonna very, very lightly, barely touching, go over my image to try to buff off a little of that embossing to really make it pop out. Gonna buff off the ink that's sitting on top of the embossing to really make that part that used to be white pop out as white. And I wanna make sure I'm not transferring my color, so I go to another portion of my baby wipe before moving onto the next color. Doing this with a very light touch. This is reactive ink, so if you get it too wet it's gonna do some different reactions, and I don't want that to happen. I want that ink to stay put. There you go, isn't that fun? Now to finish my card I'm gonna dry off my hands real quick and I am gonna put it onto a top-folded A2 card with some of my adhesive. Just gonna get all this outta my way so I don't have any leftover ink getting on my card base. I'm just gonna set that on top of there. And finish with a little hello message that I've stamped on with black on a circle that I die cut, and I'm gonna raise it up with a couple of foam squares. I think you should rainbow all the things and I think that is just perfect.

Day 23 - Hello - Ombre spectrum

- In the past we've used ombre inks for stamping. This time I'm gonna show you how to use it direct to paper for a cool background technique. Ombre ink pads come in a variety of colors. You can use any color spectrum that you like for this technique. I'm using the Tide Pool to Navy ink. You'll remember that ombre pads have three different colors in one ink pad. I'm using a piece of card stock that I corner-rounded, and I'm gonna do direct to paper by swiping it across my card stock. Because of that gap in the ombre pad, I'm gonna go slightly up and down just so I don't have a white line showing on my piece. I wanna keep inking this way until the whole thing is covered. Then I'm gonna turn my pad around and do the other side of my paper the same exact way. You're putting a lotta ink down with this technique. That's lovely and that would make a beautiful background all on its own, but I'm gonna do something really cool with this. I'm gonna use the Bursting With Love bold print background stamp and my embossing ink. This time I'm using it as a watermark. I'm gonna ink all over my hearts with the embossing ink. And now I'm gonna take that piece that I inked up with my ombre pad, put it facedown on the stamp, use a piece of scratch paper so I don't get my fingers all inky, and transfer the ink to my piece. And now the magic is gonna happen. At first it doesn't look like a whole lot, but as it sits for the next minute you're gonna see those hearts come to life on my background. I'm gonna continue assembling my card, and as it dries you'll see the hearts even more. I'm gonna add a message that I die cut and embossed with silver sparkle embossing powder. Now that I've added all the glue to my die cut, I'm gonna put it right on my card front for a happy hello. Here's a card that I made previously. And this one I went in the other order. I put the darker blues at the outside and the lighter Tide Pool color in the middle. And this one's been sitting longer, so you can really see those hearts popping out. This one will get to the same level as it sets.

Day 24 - Geometric - stencils in neon

- Stencils are another great way to add texture to the background of your card. For my card, I'm going to be using a stencil called Every Which Way Stencil. There are several ways you can hold

your stencil down over your project. You can just try to hold it still with your hands. You could put some washi tape down and tape it in place. But today, I'm using a spray. It's a light-tack repositionable adhesive that I've already sprayed on the back of my stencil. It's just lightly sticky. This spray would not work to put your card stock pieces together. It'll just fall apart 'cause it's lightly tacky. But it works great for these stencils. So I'm gonna put that down right over a piece of card stock and press it down so it's making good contact. And then for my inking today, I'm going to use neon inks. I'm using a neon purple and a neon pink. This is just a dye ink like we've used before, but in fun neon colors. I'm gonna start with the pink. I'm gonna use my blending brushes again for this. You could also use a foam blending tool or even a sponge. Gonna pick up some ink and just start rubbing it through my stencil. When I'm about halfway up, I'm gonna switch to my other ink, purple neon, and blend on the color with the same technique I've been using. In the center, I'm gonna go ahead and blend right down over where my pink is, just to make sure the colors meet and blend together nicely. And once I feel it's nicely inked up, I'm gonna go ahead and remove my stencil. And look at that, my stencil stayed in place perfectly, and my ink is blended on nicely. Since I used this kinda wacky Every Which Way Stencil and my neon inks, I thought the great message for this one would be go wild, it's your birthday. I already silver embossed it on a piece of card stock and backed it with some vellum. I'm gonna put all this together on a card base. This time, I'm using a top-folded card. I'll add some liquid adhesive to the back of my card. And I'll just put that right down on my card. This piece was cut a little bit smaller to leave a white edge around. And I will add this message panel with my foam squares. Since there is a vellum layer on there, I wanna make sure my foam squares are not overhanging where the vellum is. And I'm gonna just put that right in the center of my card, lined up with the edges. I think I'll add a few sequins to finish this card. This time, I'm gonna add some pink sequins that go really well with the neon inks that I used. Gonna add some close to my message. Gonna go ahead and put all my adhesive down first and then pick up my sequins to add. I think I'll use my tweezers today. Sometimes, it's just faster to use my fingers than those tweezers. And there we go, lots of fun sequins on my wild, go wild, it's your birthday card.

Day 25 - Large flower - using pastes

- We've used stencils with inks. This time, I wanna create some texture on my card with paste. Before I work with my stencil, I'm gonna show you how to create a card that has the corners rounded using a die. Taking a folded card with the fold up at the top, align the die so the top edge of the die is just outside of the fold of the card. I'll run it through my die cutting machine just like that, and that will give me a card that has already been cut around the edges and has rounded corners. The texture paste we're using today has sparkle built right in and I love my sparkle. I'm gonna take a little bit of it and put it right down on the work surface. I'm using a craft mat today to protect my surface. Gonna give it a little bit of a stir, and then put a couple piles of it right onto my surface. And then I'm gonna add some reinker. This is the Reactive Ink Reinker and I'm gonna add a little bit of yellow, just a few dots of it to one of the piles. That was my Lemon Drop ink. Now I'm gonna use Taffy in the other pile. And then, I'm gonna mix that in with my palette knife. And just like that, I have a nice yellow paste. I'm gonna clean off my palette knife just a little bit and blend in the Taffy. I'm gonna work with a piece of card stock that I die cut in the same way that I did my card base, but with a die that's slightly smaller than the card base. I'm using a stencil that I sprayed with a sticky adhesive. I'm using a large flower stencil for this project. It's just a really big beautiful flower. I'm gonna use these two colors and then blend 'em together as I go out. I'm going to start with yellow in the center and move out to pink. When I put it through my stencil, I put it down and then I

kind of go with the edge of my palette knife to scrape off the excess. Then I can reuse that bit. To transition to my pink color, I'm gonna take a little bit of my pink and mix it right into my yellow. Gonna blend these two colors together, and that'll be my transition color between the two. I've made a nice shade of orange doing that. Gonna pick up some of that orange and start blending it in where the yellow was and working my way out towards the outer edge of my stencil. And now I'm gonna use my pink to finish off the flower. Once all the glimmer paste is on there, I'm gonna do one last scrape across the whole thing to remove any excess. And now for the moment of truth, I'm gonna lift up my stencil. And that gorgeous flower pattern is revealed. Gonna set that aside for just a second and clean up my surface. My stencil I'm gonna wanna wash right away because that paste will harden on there, and it'll make my stencil not very good to use after this. If I can't get to my sink right away, what I like to do is put the baby wipe down on my table, put the stencil on that, and then start cleaning it off like this. Eventually, I'll go under my sink and do a really good, thorough wash as well. This piece needs to dry completely before I put it on my card, but I have one that I already created earlier. I mounted this with some foam tape on my card base, and I added a You're So Special message. There are many kinds of paste and endless colors, so you can customize for whatever project you're working on.

Day 26 - Hello - stencils as resist

- The possibilities with stencils are endless. I'm gonna show you one more fun technique that combines reactive inks with a stencil and water to use a stencil as a resist. Before I get to my stencil, I'm gonna begin by blending some reactive ink on our card stock. I'm using Pool Party and Fruit Punch today. Nice complimentary colors. And I'm using my blending brushes again. Starting off by tapping off, and then just blending the colors together. Once I have my Pool Party ink how I like it, I'm gonna move on to the Fruit Punch. I'm gonna just go ahead and rotate my whole paper, 'cause I don't want to blend back in to that blue. I wanna have a fresh clean spot right here to blend on. I think I'm gonna go ahead and coat my fingers with some Washi Tape, so I can hold my piece down without any fingerprints. I'm gonna keep going with this Fruit Punch until I have nice coverage. And you can see how the two inks are coming together in the middle, for almost a purple-y dark blue color in the middle. Okay, I think I'm happy with that. And now for the part with the stencil. I've sprayed my stencil with a light tack adhesive, and I'm gonna put it right down over my piece. I'm using a poinsettia stencil, but I like using it for year round, because it has a nice abstract pattern that doesn't necessarily call Christmas to me. Okay, once it's down, I'm gonna lightly spritz this with plain water. (water sprays) And this is where the magic happens on this design. (water sprays) The ink that's coming through the stencil is gonna react with the water. And as I peel my stencil away, you'll see the pattern of the stencil coming through. Now I'm gonna mount this on my card base. My panel was cut to four inches by five and a quarter, so it's slightly smaller than my A2 card. And then to finish the card, I'm going to use a message that says, "Hello", which was die cut with light blue card stock. Hello there, beautiful card.

Day 27 - Color pop with Liquid Watercolors

- My very favorite coloring medium is watercolors, and I'm so excited to show you how to use it on your cards. Hero Arts makes wonderful liquid watercolors. They come in 16 different colors, and then also a white. They come in a cute little bottle that's glass, and has a eyedropper at the top. The pigments in the watercolors are very fine, and mix really well, so you barely have to shake it to get it to work. I'm gonna put a little bit of my black into my palette, I've already put the yellow in there.

These are the two colors I'm using on my card. The yellow here was called dandelion. And I'm gonna work with a stamped image of a mum flower that I've already embossed it with black embossing powder, and the set is called Hero Florals, Mum Stem. I'm gonna show you how to just do a general watercolor wash along the outside of my image. If you wanted to, you could color in the inside of your image, but I like to do it the opposite way, and color around the outside. Some people are very intimidated by watercolors, and I wanna show you it can be very, very easy to use them. So I'm gonna start by just putting some of the yellow right up along the flower. I'm gonna work in sections on this, a little bit at a time, so that the watercolor doesn't dry too much in between steps. I'm using a round watercolor brush today for my watercoloring. So now that the yellow is there along the flower, I'm just putting clean water on my brush, and I'm coming in from the outside with water until I meet up with that yellow. That makes a nice wash come out from the flower. I like to have it become lighter and lighter as it moves away from the flower. I use a paper towel to get excess water off my brush, and then I'm gonna go in for a little bit more of the yellow. Going back to my clean water, and blending out the yellow, out to the edge. And I'm gonna repeat this process all the way around the mum. One great thing about watercolors, if you feel like you've gotten a little too much pigment in an area, you can take a piece of paper towel, and just dab away the pigment, and it becomes light again. It gives you a do-over without much effort at all. I'm going to make this center full-strength yellow. Now I just take a look at it, and if I feel like any parts need a little more work, I can go in with a little more water and blend, I can go in with just a dab more yellow and blend, until I get a look that I like. I'm gonna dab away a little bit of excess right there. Okay, that's exactly how I want it, so I'm gonna set this piece aside to dry. I have one that has been dried fully. And now I wanna add some black splatter onto my card. So I'm just gonna take a little bit of this black liquid watercolor onto my brush, and pounce my brush over top. If you have a work surface that you don't wanna have splatters on, make sure and protect it, because sometimes the splattering has a mind of its own. Now to finish this card, I'm going to mount it onto a black card stock that has been placed on top of my card. I think because my flower is still drying just a little with the black splatters I'm gonna put the glue right down on my card directly and then set it on top. On black card stock, I embossed the message, "You're simply fabulous" from the stamp set in white embossing powder, and I'm gonna put that on my card with some foam squares. I'm having it overlap my flower just a little, so it's not off all by itself. And then I'm gonna finish the card with just a few sequins. This is our hombre sunshine mix, with some cute yellow sequins. I'm gonna put some dots of glue where I want them. And then I'm gonna place the sequins right on top. This mix does have a couple different sizes, I think I'm gonna use both big and small on this card. Sometimes just a simple black and white card with a splash of color is all you need.

Day 28 - Jelly fish - liquid watercolor

- When using a background stamp sometimes it's fun to use watercolors all over the background to create your card panel. I'm working with the jellyfish party background stamp, it's one of my absolute favorites. And I've already embossed it with silver embossing powder on my watercolor paper. The silver embossing is gonna act as a resist, so you'll still see that silver embossing when I'm done painting. I'm going to work with three different colors of liquid watercolor for this, pink, indigo, and purple. I'm gonna begin by just wetting my panel completely with water. This is called the wet on wet technique and it just gives a nice wash of water for the watercolor to move around once it touches the paper. Now for this jellyfish background I'm not gonna worry about staying in the lines of the jellyfish, I'm just gonna put the paint randomly wherever I feel like putting it. You can see how

the paint moves on its own because of all that water already on the paper. I love this organic look when you're watercoloring. I'm gonna clean my brush just a little bit better. I'm using a round watercolor brush. I'm gonna go in with some of the indigo. The colors are gonna meet and blend together. I'm gonna add just a little bit more water. This is turning out a little more vibrant than I intended for this card, but I'll show you, you can get so many different looks with this technique. Now I'm adding a little of the purple and you end up with different colors than you expect, because they're all mixing together. I think I'm gonna blot off just a little bit of the paint, 'cause I got it really thick in some places. That lightens it up a bit as well. What I like to do is go back where I've already added some color and add just a little bit more on top of it to really give some variation to the coloring. All right, I think I like how that looks. I'm gonna set it aside to dry and I'm gonna show you one that I did earlier that's already dry. And you can see that the watercolor pulls back a little, it lightens up as it dries, but really you can get different looks depending on how much water you're adding to your paint or if you're keeping it full strength, that's gonna make it lighter or darker. I'm gonna mat my painted panel with some darker purple colored paper. And then for a sentiment for this card, since I think these jellyfish are beautiful I'm gonna use a message that has beautiful incorporated. It says you make this world beautiful. And this is from this wonderful stamp set from the Kindness collection at Hero Arts called You Are Loved Messages. One thing I love about Hero Arts is they believe in giving back and this is one of the stamps that's the 25% of the profits from it go to the Kind Campaign. I'm gonna mount it on my card base and then at the very end I'm just gonna add a little glitter. You can either use some chunky glitter or in this case I'm gonna use some glitter glue, leaving just a little bit of white border along the edge. And now for my glitter. I'm gonna put it at the tops of various jellyfish, just here and there. It really makes these jellyfish look magical. I'll set that aside to dry. I'll show you a couple other variations of this same card. This one is with a hello there message and I used the chunky iridescent glitter. And then as I was saying, depending on how much water you use you can get a very different look. This was with the exact same colors of watercolors, but this one looks much more bold and vibrant and this one's more pale and soft.

Day 29 - Starry Night - liquid watercolor resist

- You can use all of these techniques to make art. Today, I'm gonna make a piece to hang on my craft room wall. I was inspired by this Starry Night bold print background stamp to make a Van Gogh-inspired piece to hang on my wall. It's measuring six by six. You could also send it as a card. It's a little bit larger than our A2 cards. I began by embossing that background on a piece of watercolor paper with white embossing powder. I'll be using liquid watercolors today. I've already placed them in my palette. I'm using cocoa, dandelion, orange, leaf, moss, pine, indigo, and blue ocean. With my round watercolor brush, I'm gonna begin by just putting a wash of water on my card. On the stamp, there's places where you can picture the stars on the Starry Night painting. I'm gonna put a little yellow and orange in those places to begin. Now for the orange. I'm letting the yellow and orange just blend together naturally. I'm kind of a messy watercolor person. I don't care about it being precise. I like to just put the colors down and play. And now for the blue. Just gonna place it all over and I'll go back in and add some more depth to the colors in just a minute. At the bottom of my piece, I'm gonna be adding some hills, so I don't have to worry too much about the bottom half of my panel, but I'm still gonna put paint there just to complete it. When the blue touches into the yellow and the orange, you're gonna get more of a green color in those areas and that is perfectly okay. That just adds some variation to your color of blue and it's kind of nice. Gonna pull that out and just play. I'm honestly, I didn't have a set plan on how this will all look in the end

because this watercolor kind of has a mind of its own, but I'm okay with that. That makes it fun. Okay, I'm gonna go in now with a little of the deep ocean, so just a little slightly darker blue and add that here and there. Gonna clean my brush and add just a little bit more of the yellow back into the centers of those stars. Okay, I'm liking that variation in color. I'm gonna set this one aside to dry. And I think I'll move onto the sunflowers. I'm gonna set that aside for just a second. For the sunflowers, I'm using the paper layering sunflower die set. I've already die cut five sets of these flowers, stems, and leaves out of watercolor paper. For this project in particular, I don't want to have this outer border on the die cut, so I'm gonna go ahead and just snip those off. For paper layering, the idea is that you'll have part of it flush to your paper and some of it can stand right up, so that's why this die is like this, but I'm gonna cut that outer part right off. I'm just snipping off these outer petals. Oh, I still have one attached, hanging on for dear life. (mumbles) (chuckles) Guess I missed some as I was going around. Okay, there we go. There's my flower, free of its outer border and I'm gonna do the exact same thing with this little leaf. We'll set those aside. I'll bring my paper back in and I'm gonna watercolor these, similar to the way I did the background. For the leaf, I'm just gonna start with a lighter green, which is the leaf green. That was little more intense than I intended, so I'm just gonna dab it off. That's why I love watercolors. Really easy to fix your little mistakes. So gonna add a little bit more on there and then come in with one of the darker greens. This is the moss green. I'm just adding different colors of green to give it a little more dimension and depth. And then for the flower, I'm going to add yellow to the petals to start. And a little bit of watered down orange. And in the center, some of the cocoa. And this is gonna feather together as they meet because it's wet in both places, and that's okay, but if that's not a look you like, you just let the paint dry in between colors. I'm a little too impatient for that. I just go for it. Gonna go back with a little orange around the flower and maybe a little bit darker brown as well. Let those come together. And a little more yellow. One thing I love about the Hero Arts watercolors is they're great for glazing. That means as a, one color dries, you can come in with another color and it's not gonna re-wet the original color, so if you did wanna make sure and have the distinct colors not feathering together, that's one thing you can do with these paints. So I colored all of the rest of the leaves, the flowers, and the stems the exact same way. Gonna set this aside to dry. We're gonna add hills to our little scene that we're making. For that, I'm taking a piece of watercolor paper that is six inches across, just like our base, and with my scissors, I'm just gonna cut in a swirl, in an S shape almost. Just picture this being a hill. And then I can turn the first one or the one that came off over and just like that, I have two hills. I'm gonna paint these green, similar to the way I did the leaves. I'm gonna have one be a lighter green and one be a darker green. This is the pine green. Gonna smooth that out a little, and I'm gonna add some other green to give it a little, a little dimension, a little variation to the color. I'll do that with this one, as well. Then as that dries, it'll come together and look a little different than it does right now. That's what I love about watercolors. You're never 100% sure what you're gonna get. That makes it fun. Okay, those are great, and we're gonna set those aside, as well. Now to assemble our piece, I'm gonna take my dried, fully dried background and all the flowers and stems and leaves and hills that I created, and start gluing it together. Gonna start with the hills, tucking in some of the stems behind the hills and varying the heights so that my piece will have a lot of interest. Now I'm gonna place the leaves on all these little pieces that are coming off the stems. If you wanted to add more dimension to this, you could even put these down with foam adhesive, but I'm gluing everything flat. And now for the happy, sunshine-y sunflowers. For these, I'm just gonna put the glue right in the back center of the flower. I'm gonna let the petals be free, and I'm gonna bend those up a little bit. Now that everything's glued down, I'm going to add just a tiny bit more

paint to this. I'm gonna put some shadows under these flowers to ground them just a bit. And that's it, my finished art piece. I can't wait to put that on my craft room wall.

Day 30 - Boot - Shaving cream stencil

- Liquid watercolors are very versatile and can be used for many techniques. Today, I'm gonna show a fun one using stencils and shaving cream. I'm using a travel sized little can of regular, foamy shaving cream, and I'm gonna spread that out on my paper plate. I don't need a bunch of it. That's why travel size was plenty. I'm gonna go ahead and smooth this down just a little to make a flat surface to work on. Flatter, anyway. Kinda like I'm frosting a cake. All right. Get that excess shaving cream off of my little stick. I'm using two colors of liquid watercolor. Indigo and also purple, and I'm just gonna put several dots of each color on my shaving cream. And here's the purple. With a toothpick, I'm gonna swirl the colors together. Now some of you may have seen this technique before. This is a kind of a classic technique. From this point, you could put your card stock face down right into the shaving cream, pull it out, scrape off the shaving cream, and you'd have a very cool marbled look on your card stock, but I'm gonna do something just a slight bit different on this. This is the Scrollwork stencil from Hero Arts, and I'm just putting it over a piece of card stock that I've cut down to four by five and 1/4 inches, and with a stick, I'm going to take my shaving cream, scoop up a bit of it, kind of keeping the color up and then put that color straight down through my stencil onto my panel. I'm gonna use it just like I used a paste with my stencil, but this time, I'm working with shaving cream. You don't wanna overwork it because the colors will mix together and become muddled, so I'm just gently taking a scoop of it and putting it straight down over my stencil. The stencil you'll want to use with this is one that has a lot of open spaces. The Scrollwork stencil is perfect. If you use something with a tight design, you'd lose some of the marbling. You wouldn't really get to see the true effect. Now I'm gonna scrape off my stick to kind of get a clean edge on it, and now I'm going to go ahead and scrape off my shaving cream. This is a little bit of a messy technique, but it's worth the mess. It's lots of fun. Once you have it mostly off, you'll take off your stencil. You can see the scroll work pattern in my stencil work there. Gonna clean my stick so there's no shaving cream still on it. Now this is the part that you're, you might doubt me that I'm gonna keep my pattern there, but trust me, it works. I'm gonna go ahead and give it a final scrape and the pattern stays. It does not smear together. And I'm gonna clean up my surface a little bit and then I'll incorporate this on my card. To use this background on a card, with the scroll work, I thought it looked like barbed wire a bit, so I'm gonna make a cowboy card. I'm gonna put some glue on the back and put it on a card base. And for my focal point, I'm gonna use a bit of vellum so that it tones down that background just a bit, and I'm gonna use a die cut piece with the Fancy Boot Fancy Die. Here's what it looks like when you first cut it out from watercolor paper. I colored it with cocoa and black liquid watercolor, which I have a piece that's already dried. I'm gonna put that on my vellum first so that I know where I can hide my glue because vellum is translucent and you can see where you have your adhesive, so I like to glue my things to the vellum first and then glue that whole panel to my card. I'm using a stamp set called cowboy life and I embossed in white a message that says happy birthday and cowgirl on black card stock. I'm gonna add that to my panel with a little bit of foam squares. Put my happy birthday and cowgirl, and like I mentioned, now I know right where I can put my adhesive. I'll put it behind the boot and behind the message, and that will keep it nice and hidden. And this is a card with quite an interesting background. Your friends will wonder how you made that.

Day 31 - Seahorse - salt

- It's our last day. I'm going to show you a final technique using liquid water colors with salt. I have a piece of water color paper that I've cut down to four inches by five and a quarter inches. And I'm gonna begin with my background. I'm gonna use liquid water colors in indigo, deep ocean, and teal. Wetting my brush and picking up some color, I'm gonna do an all over wash on the background. Just combining the colors together to give it some interest. Just a quick wash of color in different shades of blue. And now for the fun part. We're gonna use salt for our technique today. I have some coarse salt here in my dish, and I'm gonna sprinkle it right on my wet water color piece. The salt pulls away the water color and it leaves an interesting pattern on the background, with white starbursts where the salt has been sitting. It takes a little bit of time for it to react, so I'm gonna set this aside. I would give your piece at least a good hour before you look at it again. So I'm gonna set that aside. This is a piece I've already done. It's completely dry, and I'm just gonna wipe away the salt. You have to press a little 'cause that salt wants to hang on. But you can see how cool the background is now that it has these splotches from where the salt was sitting. Almost look like little flowers. I love it. And this is another one of those water color techniques where you don't know exactly how it's gonna turn out, but that's the fun with playing. And I'm gonna pick up my salt and get rid of it, and build my card. For my card, I'm gonna use the paper layering seahorse die from Hero Arts. I've already die cut a couple of them. This one I embossed with a sparkling sea embossing powder. This is a really surprising powder. When you look at it, it has clear chunks, it has glitter, and it has just a bit of blue. When I embossed it, I was really surprised that this is how it looks, but I absolutely love it. For my second seahorse, I'm gonna do direct to paper method with my blue Hawaii ink. Putting it down on a piece of scratch paper, I'm just gonna rub the die cut with my ink pad, direct to paper onto the cutout. This is a quick and easy way to add ink to your project in the exact color you want to match your other stamping. Now I have a nice blue seahorse. For the message on this card, I'm gonna use the mix and match compliment stamp set. This stamp set's great because you can build all kinds of different messages. I've already stamped one that says have a lovely day. To build my card, I'm gonna put my background onto a card base, with my liquid glue. You should be a pro at this by now. If your water color paper's just a little bit bent, from all that water and drying, there's a couple ways you can flatten it back out. You can put it under some books, but I like to put it through my die cutting machine, through some clean plates. That pressure smushes it back down again and flattens it out. And now for my seahorse. I have two of these, so what I'm gonna do is kind of make a shadow with one of them. I'm going to offset them just a bit as I mount them on my card. The first one I'm gonna glue flat down. And then the second, I'll pop up with some foam tape. I'm making sure to put my foam squares where they will not be seen through the holes in the design. I'm offsetting my seahorse just a bit. I love the salt technique on the back of this card. If you wanted to, you could still add sequins or enamel dots, but I think I'm gonna leave it as it is. I like to say there's no rules in crafting. With all the techniques and tips you've learned you can make an endless amount of cards for all the occasions throughout the year.